



**June 7, 2017**

Dear Provider,

As you may be aware, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has implemented an initiative to end long term opioid use for non-malignant conditions of the back and spine. On June 15, 2016, EOCCO notified you of the first phase of changes to the treatment coverage that began on July 1, 2016. This announcement can be found on EOCCO's website at <http://eoocco.com/providers/opiod-tapering.shtml>.

The EOCCO Clinical Advisory Panel has developed an implementation plan for the next phase of treatment changes which will start on August 1, 2017. In the meantime, providers with patients receiving long term opioids for a condition of the back and spine will receive an additional letter via certified mail in the first week of July, noting the patient's name.

### **Phase 2 Timeline**

**8/1/17:** We will start asking for additional information for patients requesting non-interventional treatment authorization(s) for conditions of the back or spine. (See Additional information section below.)

**10/1/17:** A treatment plan and opioid taper schedule will be required for members receiving long term opioid therapy for a condition of the back and spine. To ensure a safe transition, we will work with you on your patient(s)' taper plan.

**1/1/18:** The Oregon Health Authority will end coverage for long term use of opioids for conditions of the back and spine.

### **Additional information**

Effective August 1, 2017, the following forms will be required to be submitted for Osteopathic and Chiropractic Manipulation therapy, Physical and Occupational therapy, and acupuncture beginning the 5<sup>th</sup> visit in a rolling 12 month period

- History and Physical
- Therapy progress notes
- Short Form McGill/SF-MPQ or a similar validated functional improvement tool
- KeeLe STarT Form or documentation of the total score for low risk patient and sub score for medium and high risk patients
- Opioid Taper Form, if applicable



However, during the period between August 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017, members on long term opioid usage for chronic back and spine pain WITHOUT an opioid taper form will not have authorization for services impacted. This is to allow you to establish a taper plan with your patients.

Effective October 1, 2017, EOCCO will adopt strict adherence to Guideline Note 56 and Guideline Note 60. Lack of an individual treatment plan and opioid taper schedule will result in a reduction of authorized services.

These requirements apply to new therapy requests for authorization, as well as extensions of existing authorizations for services after October 1, 2017 for members receiving long term opioids for conditions of the back and spine.

EOCCO will be sending letters to EOCCO members that have been identified as receiving long term opioids for conditions of the back or spine beginning in July 2017 requesting them to take the letter to their health care provider to start working on a plan to taper their opioid use.

### **Resources and tools**

EOCCO understands that you will have questions about these changes and need additional resources. Our website has been updated with the resources and tools listed below to assist you through this transition at: <http://eoccco.com/providers/opiod-tapering.shtml>.

Link to:

- Guideline Notes 56 and 60
- Short Form McGill
- KeeLe STarT form
- Sample Opioid Taper Form, please visit eoccco.com at link:
- Documentation from the Community Forums for Chronic Non-cancer Pain Management held in 4 EOCCO counties is early 2017
- OHA's decision and guidelines for the treatment of back and spine pain
- OHA's resources on tapering patients with chronic pain off prescription opioids
- Information about authorization requirements with EOCCO

If you have additional questions about this letter, please email [EOCCOinquiry@modahealth.com](mailto:EOCCOinquiry@modahealth.com).

Sincerely,

Leelee Thames, MD, MBA