

Cumulative Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) for Opioid Analgesic Therapy

Override(s)	Approval Duration
Cumulative Morphine Equivalent Dose	Initial Request: 3 months Maintenance Therapy: Additional authorization required every 6 months Individuals receiving for terminal diagnosis and receiving palliative care/end-of-life therapy: Lifetime Individuals receiving for cancer related pain: 1 year

Medications
All Opioids

APPROVAL CRITERIA

Authorization for more than 90 mg MED (morphine equivalent dose) per day of opioid analgesics may be approved for the following (VA/DoD 2017, CDC 2016):

- I. Individual has been diagnosed with cancer and appropriate cancer pain management requires dosing that exceeds the restricted amount;
OR
- II. Individual has a terminal illness and appropriate pain management requires dosing that exceeds the restricted amount;

OR

- III. Individual meets one of the following:
 - A. Individual is stabilized on current dose and opioid utilization at that dose is effective in reducing pain and/or increasing function; **OR**
 - B. Individual has obtained partial pain relief at lower doses of opioids and dose escalation is clinically appropriate;

AND

- IV. Individual will be routinely monitored regarding continued improvement in pain and/or function as well as the absence of aberrant behaviors (including but not limited to: obtaining prescriptions from other providers, obtaining opioids from non-medical sources, forgery/alteration of prescriptions, recurrent episodes of prescription loss or

theft, recurrent episodes of running short of medication supply and/or repeated requests for early refills). (AMDG 2015)

State Specific Mandates		
State name	Date effective	Mandate details (including specific bill if applicable)
N/A	N/A	N/A

Key References:

Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016. MMWR Recomm Rep 2016;65:1–49. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr6501e1>.

Lexi-Comp ONLINE™ with AHFS™, Hudson, Ohio: Lexi-Comp, Inc.; 2017; Updated periodically.

VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain. Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense. Version 3.0 – 2017. Available from: <https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/Pain/cot/VADoDOTCPG022717.pdf>. October 31, 2017.

Washington State Agency Medical Directors' Group. Interagency guideline on opioid dosing for chronic non-cancer pain: an educational aid to improve care and safety with opioid treatment. Olympia (WA): Washington State Department of Labor and Industries; June 2015. Available from: <http://www.agencymeddirectors.wa.gov/Files/2015AMDGOpoidGuideline.pdf>. Accessed October 31, 2017.