

Attention: Prescribers**Prior Approval Criteria for Opioid Analgesics Updated to Comply with the STOP Act**

Effective Jan. 2, 2018, the clinical coverage criteria for opioid analgesics will be updated to comply with the quantity limits mandated by the [Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention \(STOP\) Act, S.L. 2017-74](#). Prior approval will be required for short-acting opioids for greater than a five-day supply for acute pain and seven-day supply for post-operative acute pain. Prior approval will be required for long-acting opioids for greater than a seven-day supply. This is a change from current criteria which requires prior approvals for greater than a 14-day supply for long- and short-acting opioid analgesics.

The prescribing provider may submit prior approval requests to NCTracks through the NCTracks portal or by fax. New opioid analgesic prior approval forms and revised clinical coverage criteria will be available on the NCTracks website.

Beneficiaries with diagnosis of pain secondary to cancer will continue to be exempt from prior approval requirements.

Outpatient Pharmacy Services
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