Clinical Policy: Long Acting Opioids
Reference Number: HIM.PA.97
Effective Date: 12/14
Last Review Date: 08/17
Line of Business: Health Insurance Marketplace

Coding Implications
Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
The following are long acting opioid analgesics requiring prior authorization: buprenorphine (Butrans®), hydrocodone (Zohydro® ER), hydromorphone (Exalgo®), morphine (Kadian®), morphine sulfate and naltrexone (Embeda®), oxycodone (OxyContin®), oxymorphone (Opana® ER), and tapentadol (Nucynta® ER).

FDA approved indication
Long acting opioids are indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate.

Limitation of use:
- Because of the risks of addiction, abuse and misuse with opioids, even at recommended doses, and because of the greater risks of overdose and death with extended-release opioid formulations, reserve long acting opioids for use in patients for whom alternative treatment options (e.g., non-opioid analgesics or immediate-release opioids) are ineffective, not tolerated, or would be otherwise inadequate to provide sufficient management of pain.
- Long acting opioids are not indicated as an as-needed (prn) analgesic.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (including office chart notes and lab results) supporting that member has met all approval criteria

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Chronic Pain (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of chronic pain;
2. Failure of two formulary long-acting narcotic analgesics, in combination with short-acting narcotic analgesics for break-through pain, unless all are contraindicated or clinically significant adverse effects are experienced.

Approval duration: 6 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications

1. Refer to HIM.PHAR.21 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized).

II. Continued Therapy

A. Chronic Pain (must meet all)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;

2. Documentation of positive response to therapy.

Approval duration: 12 months

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**

1. Currently receiving medication via health plan benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to HIM.PHAR.21 if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized)

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy – HIM.PHAR.21 or evidence of coverage documents

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation Key
FDA: Food and Drug Administration

V. References

1. OxyContin Prescribing Information. Stamford, CT: Purdue Pharma L.P.; December 2016. Available at: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/022272s034lbl.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.
2. Oxymorphone Drug Monograph. Clinical Pharmacology. Accessed January 12, 2017. http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/.
3. Butrans Prescribing Information. Stamford, CT: Purdue Pharma L.P.; December 2016. Available at: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/021306s024lbl.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.
4. Zohydro ER Prescribing Information. Morristown, NJ: Pernix Therapeutics, LLC; December 2016. Available at: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/202880s009s010lbl.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.
5. Exalgo Prescribing Information. Hazelwood, MO: Mallinckrodt Brand Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; December 2016. Available at: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/021217s019lbl.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.
6. Nucynta ER Prescribing Information. Newark, CA: Depomed, Inc.; December 2016. Available at: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/200533s014lbl.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.
7. Embeda Prescribing Information. New York, NY: Pfizer Inc.; December 2016. Available at: http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2016/022321s022lbl.pdf. Accessed January 12, 2017.

8. Morphine Drug Monograph. Clinical Pharmacology. Accessed January 12, 2017. http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/.
9. Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain – United States, 2016. MMWR Recommendations and Reports. 2016; 65(1): 1-49. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr6501e1.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Reformatted guideline to new format. Added Workflow reference document.	12/15	12/15
Updated background and initial criteria to reflect current formulary. Removed specific dose requirements for formulary long acting opioids as there is no maximum dose with opioids, and dose tolerance varies across individual members so such requirements would be unreasonable. Removed requirement "Adherent use of adjunctive pain treatment, consistent with first line treatment of chronic pain. Ancillary treatment may include acetaminophen, NSAIDs, anticonvulsants, or antidepressants as their use may apply to the member's condition" as this varies across different chronic pain conditions and is difficult and inappropriate to assess from the PBM level. Updated references and removed workflow document.	09/16	09/16
Converted to new template.	04/17	08/17

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.