



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

<b>Policy #:</b> 403-1140	<b>Lead Department:</b> Pharmacy
<b>Title:</b> Opioid Refill Policy	
<b>Original Date:</b> 02/13/2017	<b>Policy Hub Approval Date:</b> 01/24/18
<b>Approved by:</b> Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)	

### **Purpose:**

Establish an opioid refill policy that prevents overutilization through early refills.

### **Policy:**

Central California Alliance for Health (the Alliance) requires greater-than or equal-to 90% of a member's opioid prescription's daily supply to have elapsed before the opioid prescription can be refilled. This refill-limit will be applied to all drugs in STC 0268 (Narcotic Analgesics).

### **Definitions:**

Standard Therapeutic Class (STC): First-Data-Bank classification of therapeutic classes.

Refill-too-soon: Pharmacy benefits design that prevents early refills of various medications.

First-Data-Bank: Drug information publisher that classifies drugs by therapeutic category, pricing, etc.

Narcotic analgesics: drugs related to the opioid class. They include, but are not limited to hydrocodone-acetaminophen, morphine, oxycodone, methadone, fentanyl, tramadol, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, and others.

### **Procedures:**

1. Alliance will allow members to refill their opioid medications once greater-than or equal-to 90% of days' supply of their prescription elapses.
2. Alliance will implement 90% refill-too-soon policy with a Business Change Request through the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) for the Standard Therapeutic Class, (STC) Narcotic Analgesics (STC code = 0268)
3. Providers attempting to fill an opioid script with less-than 90% of the days' supply elapsed will see a rejection at pharmacy point-of-sale for refill-too-soon.
4. Providers requesting an exception to fill an opioid script with less than 90% days' supply elapsed will have to submit a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) that includes medical necessity for why the member needs an early fill.



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**References:**

Alliance Policies:

Impacted Departments:

Care Management

Member Services

Provider Services

Regulatory:

Legislative:

Contractual:

MMCD Policy Letter:

NCQA:

Supersedes:

Other References:

Attachments:

**Lines of Business This Policy Applies To**

**LOB Effective Dates**

Medi-Cal

(01/01/1996 – present)

Alliance Care IHSS

(07/01/2005 – present)

**Revision History:**

<b>Reviewed Date</b>	<b>Revised Date</b>	<b>Changes Made By</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
01/02/2018		Michael Blatt, Pharm. D., Pharmacy Director	UMWG