



Memorandum

To: Pharmacy Providers  
From: Change HealthCare  
Date: 01-04-2017  
Subject: MaineCare Pharmacy Criteria Regarding PL 488: Maine's Opiate Limits per LD 1646 An Act To Prevent Opiate Abuse by Strengthening the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program

Regarding PL 488 and MaineCare members, beginning January 2017, all current users who are above the maximum combined daily dose of 100 MME must titrate their total daily dose of opioid medications below 300 MME. Also, the maximum daily supply of an opiate prescription for acute pain will be limited to 7-day supplies. The maximum day supply of an opiate prescription for chronic pain will be limited to 30-day supplies. As of July 1, 2017 all users of opioid medications must comply with the maximum combined daily dose of 100 MME.

However, for MaineCare members, effective January 1, 2017, opioid prescription(s) for more than a 7-day supply and/or more than 30 MME/ day will require a prior authorization. Please note that MaineCare implemented a 30 MME limit January 1, 2013 that is still effective.

The following are general exceptions: pain associated with cancer treatment, end-of-life and hospice care, and palliative care. Per MaineCare criteria, the diagnosis of cancer must be written on the prescription. A palliative care exception for any MaineCare opioid prescription will require prior authorization (PA) with appropriate clinical documentation.

An MME conversion chart is available at [www.mainearepdl.org](http://www.mainearepdl.org). Click on "General Pharmacy Info."

If you have any questions, please contact the Change Healthcare Provider Services Help Desk at 1-888-445-0497 or Pharmacy Help Desk at 1-888-420-9711.

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