

## Partial Fill for Pain Management and Schedule II Drug Prescriptions

Opioid addiction and overdosing is a multi-faceted issue that is growing in the United States. According to the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, there were over 2,000 opioid overdose deaths in 2016. According to the Drug Abuse Warning Network, prescription drug misuse and abuse is the intentional or unintentional use of medication without a prescription, in a way other than prescribed, or for the experience or feelings it gives. Abuse can stem from the fact that prescription drugs are legal and potentially more easily accessible. Data shows that individuals who misuse prescription drugs believe these substances are safer than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a health care professional, and thus are safe to take under any circumstances. The California Legislature is taking steps to prevent the over prescribing of opioids and minimize the number of pills available for unintentional or intentional diversion.

### PARTIAL FILL PRESCRIPTIONS

Assembly Bill (AB) 1048 amended health care pain management and Schedule II drug prescriptions as follows:

Effective July 1, 2018, AB 1048 authorizes a pharmacist to dispense a Schedule II controlled substance as a partial fill if requested by the patient or the prescriber.

- The pharmacy shall retain the original prescription, with a notation of how much of the prescription has been filled, the date and amount of each partial fill, and the initials of the pharmacist dispensing each partial fill, until the prescription has been fully dispensed.
- The full prescription shall be dispensed at the pharmacy where the original prescription was partially filled, not more than 30 days after the date on which the prescription was written. Thirty-one days after the date on which the prescription was written, the prescription shall expire and no more of the drug shall be dispensed without a subsequent prescription.

Effective January 1, 2019, the bill requires health care service plans including CalViva Health and Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. (Health Net) to prorate the member's cost-sharing for a partial fill of a Schedule II prescription of an oral, solid dosage form prescription drug.

### REMINDER: PAIN ASSESSMENT

Effective January 1, 2018, AB 1048 removed the requirement that pain be assessed at the same time as vital signs are taken. Pain assessment should be performed in a consistent manner that is appropriate to the patient and noted in the patient's chart.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact CalViva Health at 1-888-893-1569.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO  
MEDI-CAL PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

### PROVIDER SERVICES

1-888-893-1569  
[www.healthnet.com](http://www.healthnet.com)