PROVIDER*Update*

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Health Net Encourages Awareness of Opioid Potentiation Medications

Health Net of California, Inc. (Health Net) is committed to assisting providers and their patients in preventing opioid medication misuse. When used in conjunction with opioids, some medications enhance the opiate effect. Health Net encourages providers to be aware of such potentiator medications, including those listed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the table below.

Although the following is not a comprehensive list, it is important to consider these medication classes when prescribing in order to best protect the health and safety of patients and combat opioid misuse. Providers should consider the interaction of an opioid and a potentiator to determine the risks and benefits associated with their combination.

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OPIOID POTENTIATORS

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Drug Class	Medication	Significant Considerations				
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS) DEPRESSANTS						
Benzodiazepines (BZDs)	alprazolam, clonazepam, diazepam, lorazepam	Both opioids and BZDs sedate users, suppress breathing and impair cognitive function				
Muscle relaxants	tizanidine, cyclobenzaprine, baclofen, carisoprodol*					
Barbiturates	phenobarbital					
BZD-like hypnotics	zolpidem, zaleplon, eszopiclone	Increased risk for respiratory depression, coma and death when used with opioids *The combination of carisoprodol, BZDs				
Gabapentinoids	gabapentin, pregabalin	and opioids results in a heroin-like high				
Antihistamines	promethazine					
Antipsychotics	quetiapine					



THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO **CALIFORNIA** PROVIDERS:

Physicians

- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- O Ancillary Providers

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- O HMO/POS/HSP
- O PPO
- EPO
- Medicare Advantage (HMO)
- $^{\bigcirc}$ Medi-Cal
 - $^{\bigcirc}$ Kern
 - Los Angeles
 - $^{\bigcirc}$ Molina
 - $^{\bigcirc}$ Riverside
 - Sacramento
 - \odot San Bernardino
 - $^{\bigcirc}$ San Diego
 - $^{\bigcirc}$ San Joaquin
 - Stanislaus

○ Tulare

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Medicare (individual) 1-800-929-9224 provider.healthnetcalifornia.com

Medicare (employer group) 1-800-929-9224 provider.healthnet.com

PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS provider.communications@ healthnet.com fax 1-800-937-6086

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Drug Class	Medication	Significant Considerations			
PHARMACOKINETIC ENHANCERS					
HIV Drugs	ritonavir, atazanavir, indinavir, cobicistat				
Antifungals	itraconazole, ketoconazole, posaconazole	CYP450 inhibition leads to increase in serum opioid concentration Ultimately results in strong CNS depression			
Antibiotics	clarithromycin				

OTHER POTENTIATORS

Stimulants	dextroamphetamine, methylphenidate	Extremely high abuse potential Used in combination to combat fatigue and sedation caused by high daily doses of opioids or to increase the analgesic effect

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the applicable Health Net Provider Services Center within 60 days at:

Line of Business	Telephone Number	Provider Portal	Email Address	
MEDICARE (INDIVIDUAL)	1-800-929-9224	provider.healthnetcalifornia.com	provider_services@healthnet.com	
MEDICARE (EMPLOYER GROUP)	1-800-929-9224	provider.healthnet.com		