

PROVIDER Update



Health Net®

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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.

OPIOID POTENTIATORS

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*	Increased risk for respiratory depression, coma and death when used with opioids *The combination of carisoprodol, BZDs and opioids results in a heroin-like high
Barbiturates	phenobarbital	
BZD-like hypnotics	zolpidem, zaleplon, eszopiclone	
Gabapentinoids	gabapentin, pregabalin	
Antihistamines	promethazine	
Antipsychotics	quetiapine	

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO CALIFORNIA PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- HMO/POS/HSP
- PPO
- EPO
- Medicare Advantage (HMO)
- Medi-Cal
 - Kern
 - Los Angeles
 - Molina
 - Riverside
 - Sacramento
 - San Bernardino
 - San Diego
 - San Joaquin
 - Stanislaus
 - Tulare

PROVIDER SERVICES

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Medicare (individual)

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Medicare (employer group)

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PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS

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