



Health Net Encourages Awareness of Opioid Potentiation Medications

Health Net Community Solutions, 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 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
Muscle relaxants	tizanidine, cyclobenzaprine, baclofen, carisoprodol*	
Barbiturates	phenobarbital	
BZD-like hypnotics	zolpidem, zaleplon, eszopiclone	
Gabapentinoids	gabapentin, pregabalin	
Antihistamines	promethazine	
Antipsychotics	quetiapine	

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO

CAL MEDICCONNECT PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

PROVIDER SERVICES

provider_services@healthnet.com
 Los Angeles County – 1-855-464-3571
 San Diego County – 1-855-464-3572
www.healthnet.com

PROVIDER COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

Providers are encouraged to access Health Net's provider portal online at provider.healthnet.com for real-time information, including eligibility verification, claims status, prior authorization status, plan summaries, and more.

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

Line of Business	Telephone Number	Email Address
CAL MEDICCONNECT – LOS ANGELES COUNTY	1-855-464-3571	provider_services@healthnet.com
CAL MEDICCONNECT – SAN DIEGO COUNTY	1-855-464-3572	