## **PROVIDER***Update*



**NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

JULY 11, 2018

**UPDATE 18-459** 

2 PAGES

# 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
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#### **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

#### **CAL MEDICONNECT PROVIDERS:**

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- O Ancillary Providers

#### PROVIDER SERVICES

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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**

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 MEDICONNECT – LOS ANGELES COUNTY	1-855-464-3571	provider convices@beatthnet.com
CAL MEDICONNECT – SAN DIEGO COUNTY	1-855-464-3572	provider_services@healthnet.com