

Be Aware of Opioid Potentiator Medications

Health Net* and Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley (CHPIV) want to help you and your patients prevent opioid medication misuse. When used in conjunction with opioids, some medications enhance the opiate effect. Please be aware of such potentiator medications, including those listed in the table below.

Although this 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 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.
Antihistamines	promethazine	
Antipsychotics	quetiapine	Increased risk for respiratory depression, coma and death when used with opioids.
Barbiturates	phenobarbital	
BZD-like hypnotics	zolpidem, zaleplon, eszopiclone	
Gabapentinoids	gabapentin, pregabalin	
Muscle relaxants	tizanidine, cyclobenzaprine, baclofen, carisoprodol**	
Pharmacokinetic enhancers		
Antibiotics	clarithromycin	CYP450 inhibition leads to increase in serum opioid concentration.
Antifungals	itraconazole, ketoconazole, posaconazole	
HIV drugs	ritonavir, atazanavir, indinavir, cobicistat	Ultimately results in strong CNS depression.
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.

The chart above was adapted from information provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Community Health Plan of Imperial Valley ("CHPIV") is the Local Health Authority (LHA) in Imperial County, providing services to Medi-Cal enrollees in Imperial County. CHPIV contracts with Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. to arrange health care services to CHPIV members. *Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. is a subsidiary of Health Net, LLC and Centene Corporation. Health Net is a registered service mark of Health Net, LLC. All other identified trademarks/service marks remain the property of their respective companies. All rights reserved.