

**Date:** April 23, 2018  
**To:** Nursing Facilities (NFs) and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID)  
**From:** James Hailey, PharmD, DPh, MBA, FAMCP  
Chief Pharmacy Officer, TennCare  
**Subject:** **Changes to Opioid Benefit Limits for TennCare members in NFs and ICFs/IID**

On January 16, 2018, TennCare implemented coverage benefit limits for all first-time and non-chronic opioid users<sup>1</sup>. TennCare now covers opioid prescriptions for up to 15 days in a 180-day period at a maximum dosage of 40 morphine milligram equivalents per day (MME per day).

- All first-fill scripts in a 180 day period will be limited to a 5 day supply of a short-acting opioid at a maximum dose of 40 MME per day without the need for prior authorization
- After the first-fill prescription, TennCare provides coverage for up to an additional 10 days of opioid treatment at a maximum dose of 40 MME per day in each 180 day period with prior authorization
- Additional consideration is given for enrollees with sickle cell disease and severe burn victims who may receive up to 45 day supply of opioids not to exceed 40 MME per day in any 90-day period with prior authorization.
- These limits do not apply to members with severe cancer pain undergoing active or palliative treatment, members receiving hospice care, or current chronic TennCare opioid users<sup>2</sup>.

**Effective May 7, 2018, TennCare enrollees who are residents in Medicaid-certified Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs/IID) and receive their medications through the TennCare pharmacy benefit** may now also receive coverage for up to a 45 day supply of opioids not to exceed 40 MME per day in a 90 day period with prior authorization.

TennCare will host an educational webinar concerning implementation of these changes on **Monday, May 7, 2018 at 11:00 AM CT**. Please register for TennCare Opioid Limits and Long Term Care Facilities Webinar at: [https://stateofennessee.formstack.com/forms/tenncare\\_opioid\\_limits\\_and\\_long\\_term\\_care\\_facilities](https://stateofennessee.formstack.com/forms/tenncare_opioid_limits_and_long_term_care_facilities)

You must register to attend the webinar. Instructions to access the webinar will be emailed to you after registration. Contact Jacquelyn King with any questions regarding the webinar at [Jacquelyn.King@tn.gov](mailto:Jacquelyn.King@tn.gov) or by phone at (615) 507-6874.

For more information regarding TennCare opioid coverage, Frequently Asked Questions, prior-authorization forms, and other provider resources please visit the Magellan website at: <https://tenncare.magellanhealth.com>.

<sup>1</sup>TennCare defines a non-chronic user as a member whose TennCare paid claims data show less than 90 day supply of prescribed opioids filled in the preceding 180 days period.

<sup>2</sup> TennCare defines a chronic user as a member whose TennCare paid claims data show at least 90 day supply of prescribed opioids filled in the preceding 180 day period.