Opioid Cough and Cold Restriction Update

Information posted March 27, 2018

Beginning April 2, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission will enhance the restriction on the use of opioid cough and cold products for clients enrolled in Medicaid fee-for-service and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Services Program to deny coverage of these products for clients younger than 18 years of age.

This restriction is based on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s drug safety communication (refer to “FDA requires labeling changes for prescription opioid cough and cold medicines to limit their use to adults 18 years and older”). Affected products will not be allowed in single ingredient or multi-ingredient compound claims. A list of currently-impacted drugs is available on the Vendor Drug Program website. This is not a comprehensive list as drug coverage is subject to change daily.

The implementation of this restriction is optional for Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). Prescribing providers should contact the client’s MCO for claim limitation requirements. The Prescriber MCO Assistance Chart identifies the appropriate prior authorization and member call center phone numbers for each MCO.

For Questions about this change email vdp_formulary@hhsc.state.tx.us.