

April 29, 2025

UPDATE ON REVISIONS TO THE VDP UNIFORM OPIOID POLICY; CHANGES DUE MAY 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

HHSC will update the Uniform Opioid Policy in Uniform Managed Care Manual (UMCM) Chapter 16.1 to comply with 42 CFR §456.703 with the required Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) changes. These amendments are effective by May 1, 2025, and MCOs must implement these changes by this date, which is a delay from the original date.

KEY DETAILS

HHSC updated UMCM Chapter 16.1 to include the following changes based on CMS compliance requirements:

- Subsequent fills on Days' Supply Limits for opioids are limited to a maximum of ten days
 - MCOs must impose daily quantity limits on each opioid National Drug Code (NDC)
 - MCOs must perform retrospective reviews on a bi-annual basis for the following:
 - o All opioid usage
 - o Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine usage
 - o Concurrent opioid and antipsychotic usage
- See the changes to the policy for more information.

ACTION

Implementation of these changes is required by May 1, 2025

QUESTIONS

For any questions regarding this notice, please contact your Community Provider Performance Manager (provider representative).