

Clinical Policy: Opioid Overdose Agents

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.145.02

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 11/2023

[Revision Log](#)

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of PA Health and Wellness[®] that Opioid Overdose Agents are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Opioid Overdose Agents

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for non-preferred Opioid Overdose Agents must be prior authorized.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Opioid Overdose Agent, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the whether the beneficiary:

1. Has a history of contraindication or intolerance to the preferred Opioid Overdose Agents.

NOTE: If the beneficiary does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

C. Clinical Review Process

Prior authorization personnel will review the request for prior authorization and apply the clinical guidelines in Section B. above to assess the medical necessity of a prescription for an Opioid Overdose Agent. If the guidelines in Section B. are met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the guidelines are not met, the prior authorization request will be referred to a physician reviewer for a medical necessity determination. Such a request for prior authorization will be approved when, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary.

D. Approval Duration: 12 months

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Policy created	01/01/2020
Q3 2020 annual review: no changes.	07/2020
Q1 2021 annual review: no changes.	01/2021
Q1 2022 annual review: no changes.	11/2021
Q1 2023 annual review: no changes.	11/2022
Q1 2024 annual review: no changes.	11/2023