

Opioids and Pain Management

Patients who experience pain should receive safe and effective pain management. Prescription opioids, such as codeine, hydrocodone (Vicodin[®], Norco[®]), oxycodone (OxyContin[®], Percocet[®]), and morphine (MS Contin[®], Kadian[®]) for example, can help treat and manage pain but also carry serious risks of addiction, overdose and even death.¹

In addition to the serious risks of misuse, overdose, and addiction, the use of prescription opioids can cause several side effects, listed below, even when they are taken as directed by your health care provider¹:

- **Tolerance**
- **Physical dependence**
- **Increased sensitivity to pain**
- **Constipation**
- **Nausea, vomiting, and dry mouth**
- **Sedation and dizziness**
- **Confusion**
- **Depression**

Nonopioid therapies, including medication and non-medication options, can often be more effective and safer than opioids²

Opioids are just one option used for treating and managing pain. Other options to manage pain include nonopioid medications and non-medication treatment and services.² Many of these options are covered by Medicare.

Your medical plan covers the following services to help manage your pain:

- **Acupuncture for chronic low back pain**
- **Chiropractic services**
- **Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)**
- **Interventional therapies, like injections**
- **Physical and occupational therapy services**

Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage) covers nonopioid medications which can also treat pain, such as:

- **Certain medications for depression or for seizures which also treat pain**
- **Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (oral and topical)**
- **Musculoskeletal relaxers**

If you have questions regarding coverage for nonopioid therapies, Peak Advantage enrollees can contact Member Service:



1-855-962-7325 (TTY: 711)
8am – 8pm EST

October 15th - April 1st, 7 days a week
April 2nd - October 14th, Monday - Friday.

This call is free.



Medicare.Peakhealth.org

References:

1. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, November 1). *About prescription opioids*. Retrieved November 19, 2024, from <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/prescription-opioids.html>
2. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 24). *Nonopioid therapies*. Retrieved November 19, 2024, from <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/manage-treat-pain/nonopioid-therapies.html>



Learn More

Medicare.PeakHealth.org



Have Questions?

1.855.962.7325 (PEAK)

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