

Subject: Louisiana Opioid Treatment Guidelines

Effective August 1, 2017, Louisiana House Bill 192 regarding Opioid Prescribing will limit first-time opioid prescriptions to a 7-day supply. In response to this change in prescribing law, First Script has established a program-wide informational message to alert client adjusters to opiate prescriptions which meet the rules maximum duration of 7 days. That message reads as follows:

“Per Louisiana Treatment Guidelines, initial fills of opioid medications are authorized for a maximum of seven days unless the reason for more than a seven day supply is listed in the medical record.”

The information provided below is an overview of Louisiana HB 192.

- Creates a 7-day limit on opioid prescriptions for first time prescriptions for outpatient use to an adult with an acute condition; or prescriptions for minors at any time. The medical practitioner must discuss with a parent, tutor, or guardian of the minor the risks associated with opioid use and the reasons why the prescription is necessary.
- If, in the professional medical judgment of a medical practitioner, more than a 7-day supply of an opioid is required to treat the adult or minor patient’s acute medical condition or is necessary for the treatment of chronic pain management, pain associated with cancer diagnosis, or for palliative care, the practitioner may issue a prescription for the quantity needed.
- The condition triggering the prescription of an opioid for more than a 7-day supply must be documented in the patient’s medical record and the practitioner must indicate that a non-opioid alternative was not appropriate to address the medical condition.

Due to the nature of these exceptions, First Script recommends that all client adjusters receiving the new Louisiana messaging consult the injured worker’s utilization history in Coventry Connect (which will show past medications taken as well as a prescriber history) in addition to their own case files regarding the injured worker’s medical diagnosis before taking action to process or not process medications associated to this message type.

For further information regarding this message, please contact your Account Manager.