iCare Medicare Plan (HMO D-SNP) Members

Prescription Opioids: What you need to know.

Prescription opioids can be used to help relieve short-term moderate-to-severe pain and are often prescribed following a surgery or injury, or for certain health conditions.

These medications can be an important part of treatment but also come with serious risks like addiction and overdose, especially with prolonged use.

At *i*Care Medicare Plan, we know that managing pain treatment can be a challenge. You need to find pain relief that works, but you also want to keep yourself safe.

We want to make that easy, by checking in with you on your current treatments and offering new options that may work for you.



What are some options or treatments for pain management?

Some of these options may work better than opioids and have fewer risks and side effects. Options may include:

- » Exercising using your SilverSneakers® benefit. Start at a slower pace than you think you can do and increase over time.
- » Physical or occupational therapy, or pain relief devices ordered by your doctor and authorized by *i*Care. Motion is lotion for your joints and mood lifting.
- » Acupuncture for chronic low back pain*.
- » Behavioral therapy or counseling. Learn relaxation and stress reduction techniques. Practice daily.
- » Using your Over-the-Counter (OTC) benefit of \$100 a month/\$300 a quarter to purchase OTC medications like naproxen, ibuprofen, acetaminophen or OTC topical pain creams.**

Always talk with your health care provider before you start new ways to manage your pain that does not involve prescription opioids. To discuss more pain relief options that are covered under *i*Care Medicare Plan, call your Care Coordinator or speak to Customer Service.

If my pain medications are working for me, what should I do?

- » Stay in touch and work with your provider on your pain management strategy to make sure you are getting the safest most effective care.
- » Look out for potential side effects, like nausea, constipation, tiredness or confusion.
- » Keep safe by knowing about the long-term side effects of using opioids, including an increased risk of heart disease, dependence and overdose.
- » Use the programs on drug safety and managing medications available to you through *i*Care Medicare Plan. Learn more by reading your Evidence of Coverage or EOC, Chapter 5, Section 10.

If you are concerned about pain medication misuse, we can help. Details are on back!





If you're concerned about pain medication misuse, iCare can help.

Members of *i*Care Medicare Plan with opioid use disorder (OUD) can receive coverage of services to treat OUD through an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)*.

You're also covered for outpatient programs that offer substance misuse recovery and mental health support.

Talk to your Care Coordinator or your health care provider about your concerns.

Find local treatment centers by using the *i*Care Provider Search tool or *i*Care Medicare Plan Provider Directory on our web site: www.iCareHealthPlan.org. You can request a copy of our Provider Directory by calling us at 1-800-777-4376, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Know that we're working alongside you to ensure your pain management is truly effective at treating your pain and supporting the life you want to live.

- *Prior authorization may be required and there are limitations and exclusions. Please refer to the plan's Evidence of Coverage or EOC, Chapter 4 Benefits Chart for more information, call your Care Coordinator or Customer Service for more information.
- **Please consult your doctor or pharmacist prior to use to assure these OTCs are safe with your current medications.



Corporate Office

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Customer Service

1-800-777-4376 TTY: 711 www.iCareHealthPlan.org

Independent Care Health Plan complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, gender identity, or sex.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-777-4376 (TTY: 711).

LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1-800-777-4376 (TTY: 711).

Independent Care Health Plan provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as qualified sign language interpreters and written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, braille, other formats). We also provide free language services to people whose primary language is not English such as qualified interpreters and information written in other languages.

Questions? Call 1-800-777-4376 (TTY: 711), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for more information. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Independent Care Health Plan (*i*Care), which insures *i*Care Medicare Plan (HMO D-SNP), is an HMO with a Medicare contract and a contract with the State Medicaid program. Enrollment in *i*Care Medicare Plan depends on *i*Care's contract renewal.

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