

New morphine milligram equivalent (MME) program, effective July 1, 2018 – provider letters

On March 30, 2018, we sent letters to notify affected providers that effective July 1, 2018 they will need to request prior authorization for patients who have been identified as having a very high MME (120–199). This new program is part of our July 2018 Drug List Changes program.

We also sent letters on March 30, 2018 to customers who are at risk from a high MME, recommending that they speak directly with their provider about requesting prior authorization.

An article about the July 2018 Drug List Changes and MME programs will be included in the April 2018 issue of Network News.

Coverage policy update – precertification requirement for cardiac ablation for supraventricular tachycardia, effective July 1, 2018

We will implement a new medical coverage policy, Cardiac Ablation for Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT) (0529), which will require precertification to review this procedure for medical necessity. This policy is effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2018.

This policy affects claims for services billed with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) code 93653. We currently reimburse claims for cardiac ablation for SVT billed with CPT code 93653 without medical necessity review.

The new policy will be available on the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website (CignaforHCP.com), and included in an April 2018 Network News article.

Opioid milestone achieved

In 2016, Cigna outlined steps to help curb the nation’s opioid epidemic. We brought together resources across our medical, behavioral, and pharmacy programs to identify ways to harness our physician partnership model to interrupt the cycle of addiction while assuring that customers who have no alternatives to manage their pain retained clinically appropriate access to the remedies prescribed by their doctor. One key metric of this effort was to reduce opioid use among our customers by 25 percent by 2019.

Cigna announced that its partnership with physicians has successfully reduced opioid use by 25 percent, reaching the key metric one year ahead of the goal.

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