

From: Sara Teachout <TeachoutS@bcbsvt.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:59 AM
To: Ann Pugh <APUGH@leg.state.vt.us>
Cc: Jessica Brumsted <JBrumsted@leg.state.vt.us>; Dane Whitman <DWhitman@leg.state.vt.us>; Taylor Small <TSmall@leg.state.vt.us>; Kelly Pajala <KPajala@leg.state.vt.us>; Rebecca Copans <CopansR@bcbsvt.com>
Subject: RE: Opioid Prescribing

Yes, this appears consistent with our understanding. Blue Cross does not have prior authorization, but we apply quantity limits. To make this totally clear, I would have the existing language (see below) that allows the QL at the end of the sentence and not in the middle.

“if the dosage prescribed is within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s dosing recommendations”

Thank you, Sara

Thanks for these comments Sara & for engaging with us. In regards to the language in the draft bill re preauthorization- does this mean that Blue Cross is OK with the preauthorization language? Please advise.

Best
Ann

Sincerely,

Rep. Ann Pugh

Chair, House Human Services Committee
Chair, Child Protection Oversight Committee

Dear Representatives Whitman, Brumstead, Small, Pajala and Pugh,

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss your concerns about access to care and our state’s opioid crisis response. I wanted to follow up with some information from our experience with Blue Cross members.

Our pharmacist Rita, pulled the recent MAT claims for our members. Only 23 claims (0.5%) hit the quantity limit that we talked with you about on Monday. A few of these were mis-entries by the pharmacy that were subsequently corrected. The majority were attempting to get more than a 30-day supply, not a higher dose. We limit all controlled substances to a supply of 30 days or less. Not one provider has requested a prior authorization for a dose that is higher than the FDA limit. After reviewing this data, while Blue Cross does have a Quantity Limit (limiting to FDA label dose) for Suboxone, Zubsolv and Bunavail, we do not believe that this policy is a barrier to appropriate care.

We really appreciate the discussion and look forward to supporting your work where we are able. I'm happy to answer additional questions if possible, Sara

Sara Teachout (she/her/hers)
Corporate Director, Government and Media Relations
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont
P.O. Box 186 Montpelier VT 05601-0186
teachouts@bcbsvt.com
(802) 279-9686 (cell)
(802) 371-3254 (office)