



Inland Empire Health Plan

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*Drug Class Prior Authorization Criteria*  
**Opioid Analgesics**

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**Line of Business:** Medicaid

**P & T Approval Date:** August 21, 2019

**Effective Date:** October 1, 2019

*This policy has been developed through review of medical literature, consideration of medical necessity, generally accepted medical practice standards, and was approved by the IEHP Pharmacy and Therapeutics Subcommittee.*

**Prior Authorization criteria is available for:** Hydromorphone, Methadone, **Nucynta ER** (tapentadol), **Nucynta IR** (tapentadol), Oxycodone, Oxycodone ER, Oxymorphone, and Fentanyl transdermal exceeding quantity limit

**Carve Out Drugs:** **Belbuca** (buprenorphine buccal film), **BuTrans** (buprenorphine patch), **Zubsolv** (buprenorphine, naloxone)

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**OXYCODONE IR**

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**Covered Uses:** Must meet "1" of the following:  
a. Pain in active cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy  
b. Palliative care, hospice or end-of-life pain diagnosis

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet the following requirement:  
a. Confirmed diagnosis

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**Covered Uses:** Chronic severe non-malignant, non-palliative pain

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet all of the following requirements:  
a. The member has tried and failed conservative pain management treatments such as non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy within the past 3 months  
b. Documentation of pain assessment, pain contract, CURES reviewed within 1 month and urine drug screen reviewed at least annually  
c. Failure or clinically significant adverse effects to "2" of the



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formulary alternatives: hydrocodone/acetaminophen, morphine IR, or oxycodone/acetaminophen, as evidenced by “1” of the following requirements:

- i. Documented hypersensitivity or intolerable adverse effects (e.g. hives) that necessitate alternate opioid medication
- ii. Documented optimal dosage titration of current opioid regimen as tolerated over a period of 3 months

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**NUCYNTA IR (TAPENTADOL), OXYMORPHONE, HYDROMORPHONE**

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**Covered Uses:** Must meet “1” of the following:  
a. Pain in active cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy  
b. Palliative care, hospice or end-of-life pain diagnosis

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet the following requirement:  
a. Confirmed diagnosis

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**Covered Uses:** Chronic severe non-malignant, non-palliative pain

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet all of the following requirements:  
a. The member has tried and failed conservative pain management treatments such as non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy within the past 3 months  
b. Documentation of pain assessment, pain contract, CURES reviewed within 1 month and urine drug screen reviewed at least annually  
c. Failure or clinically significant adverse effects to “2” of the formulary alternatives: hydrocodone/acetaminophen, morphine IR, or



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oxycodone/acetaminophen; and oxycodone IR, as evidenced by “1” of the following requirements:

- i. Documented hypersensitivity or intolerable adverse effects (e.g. hives) that necessitate alternate opioid medication
- ii. Documented optimal dosage titration of current opioid regimen as tolerated over a period of 3 months

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**OXYCODONE ER**

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**Covered Uses:** Must meet “1” of the following:  
a. Pain in active cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy  
b. Palliative care, hospice or end-of-life pain diagnosis

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet the following requirement:  
a. Confirmed diagnosis

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**Covered Uses:** Chronic severe non-malignant, non-palliative pain

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet all of the following requirements:  
a. The member has tried and failed conservative pain management treatments such as non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy within the past 3 months  
b. Documentation of pain assessment, pain contract, CURES reviewed within 1 month and urine drug screen reviewed at least annually  
c. Failure or clinically significant adverse effects to morphine ER or fentanyl patch, as evidenced by “1” of the following requirements:



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- i. Documented hypersensitivity or intolerable adverse effects (e.g. hives) that necessitate alternate opioid medication
- ii. Documented optimal dosage titration of current opioid regimen as tolerated over a period of 3 months

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**TRAMADOL ER**

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**Covered Uses:** Must meet "1" of the following:  
a. Pain in active cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy  
b. Palliative care, hospice or end-of-life pain diagnosis

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet the following requirement:  
a. Confirmed diagnosis

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**Covered Uses:** Chronic severe non-malignant, non-palliative pain

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet all of the following requirements:  
a. The member has tried and failed conservative pain management treatments such as non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy within the past 3 months  
b. Documentation of pain assessment, pain contract, CURES reviewed within 1 month and urine drug screen reviewed at least annually  
c. Failure or clinically significant adverse effects to formulary tramadol at optimal dosage titration as tolerated over a period of 3 months

**Age Restriction:** N/A



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**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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METHADONE, **NUCYNTA ER** (TAPENTADOL)

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**Covered Uses:** Must meet "1" of the following:  
a. Pain in active cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy  
b. Palliative care, hospice or end-of-life pain diagnosis

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet the following requirement:  
a. Confirmed diagnosis

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**Covered Uses:** Chronic severe non-malignant, non-palliative pain

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet all of the following requirements:  
a. The member has tried and failed conservative pain management treatments such as non-pharmacologic therapy and non-opioid pharmacologic therapy within the past 3 months  
b. Documentation of pain assessment, pain contract, CURES reviewed within 1 month and urine drug screen reviewed at least annually  
c. Failure or clinically significant adverse effects to morphine ER or fentanyl patch; and oxycodone ER, as evidenced by one of the following requirements:  
i. Documented hypersensitivity or intolerable adverse effects (e.g. hives) that necessitate alternate opioid medication;  
ii. Documented optimal dosage titration of current opioid regimen as tolerated over a period of 3 months

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** Oncologist, pain specialist or palliative care specialist



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**FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL (12 MCG/HR, 25 MCG/HR, 50 MCG/HR) THAT EXCEED QUANTITY LIMIT OF 10 PATCHES OVER 30 DAYS**

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**Covered Uses:** Must meet “1” of the following:  
a. Pain in active cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy  
b. Palliative care, hospice or end-of-life pain diagnosis

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet the following requirement:  
a. Confirmed diagnosis

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A

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**Covered Uses:** Chronic severe non-malignant, non-palliative pain

**Exclusion Criteria:** N/A

**Required Medical Information:** Must meet all of the following requirements:  
a. Documented established opioid tolerance (i.e. taking for one week or longer, around-the-lock opioid consistent of at least 60 mg or oral morphine per day, at least 25 mcg of transdermal fentanyl per hour, 30 mg of oral oxycodone per day, at least 60 mg of oral hydrocodone per day, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid for a week or longer);  
b. Documentation of pain assessment, pain contract, CURES reviewed within 30 days and UDS reviewed at least annually  
c. Medical justification of more frequent dosing and the benefits outweigh the risks  
d. If overall MME is greater than or equal to IEHP high daily morphine equivalent limit, the High Daily Morphine Equivalent Dose policy and criteria must be met

**Age Restriction:** N/A

**Prescriber Restriction:** N/A



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Change Control		
Date	Change	Author
08/21/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updated document format</li><li>Retired criteria for drugs with low PA volume: Abstral, Conzip, Embeda, Exalgo ER, fentanyl lozenge, Fentora, Hysingla ER, Lazanda, meperidine, Onsolis, Subsys, Xtampza ER, Zohydro ER</li></ul>	ND
05/15/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Renew with no change</li></ul>	ND
06/29/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Changed Format</li></ul>	IK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update document to new format</li><li>Adjusted duration of auth from “up to 6 months” to 6 months as ops no longer grants short term courtesy approval</li><li>Added re-auth criteria for fentanyl patch that exceeds QL</li></ul>	CT