

Starter Dose Programs

To ensure appropriate use of certain newly prescribed medications, EmpiRx Health provides Starter Dose Programs that limit the first supply for the following drug classes:

Opioids

Opioids are pain medications such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, or methadone that have a high potential for abuse and addiction. The Opioid Starter Dose Program requires members to fill a 7-day supply before receiving a 30-day supply. EmpiRx Health will only cover prescriptions for opioid medications up to a maximum of a 30-day supply.

Oncology

Oncology medications are used to treat cancer. They can have many unpleasant side effects that may affect a patient's ability to take them. The Oncology Starter Dose Program requires patients to fill two 14-day supplies before receiving a 30-day supply. An EmpiRx Health pharmacist will call the patient shortly after treatment begins to discuss any side effects. Our pharmacist will work with the patient and the prescriber to adjust the dosage or consider an alternative medication.

Benzodiazepines

Benzodiazepines are anxiety medications that are prescribed frequently; however, these medications have a high potential for abuse and addiction. When these medications are taken with other medications, such as opioids, patients can have a greater chance of addiction. The Benzodiazepine Starter Dose Program requires members to fill two 14-day supplies before receiving a 30-day supply.

Sleep Aids

Sleep aids are medications that help patients have a good night's sleep. Although the directions for most of these medications say that they should be used for no more than 10 days, patients often become dependent on them to sleep. The Sleep Aid Starter Dose Program requires members to fill two 10-day supplies before they receive a 30-day supply.

Contraceptives

Many people who start taking a new oral contraceptive (birth control pill) will fill prescriptions for a 3-month supply only to switch to another product after a month due to side effects. This wastes money for your plan and can lead to higher costs for you. The Contraceptive Starter Dose Program requires members to fill one 28-day supply before receiving an 84-day supply. This program only affects oral medications that come in 28-day packaging.

QUESTIONS

We're always available for you. If you have any questions or require additional information about your specific coverage, contact us toll-free at **1-877-241-7123/TDD 1-888-907-0020**.