

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NAME: Blocking Adjudication of Controlled Substance Prescriptions for Selected Prescribers	POLICY ID: GA.PHAR.19
BUSINESS UNIT: Peach State Health Plan	FUNCTIONAL AREA: Pharmacy
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/2011	PRODUCT(S): All
REVIEWED/REVISED DATE: 10/2017, 7/2018, 2/2019, 7/2019, 7/2020, 7/2021, 10/2021, 7/2022, 10/2022, 10/2023	
REGULATOR MOST RECENT APPROVAL DATE(S): N/A	

POLICY STATEMENT:

To provide a process for the blocking adjudication of controlled substance prescriptions for selected prescribers to prevent abuse of the pharmacy benefit.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of blocking adjudication of controlled substance prescriptions for selected prescribers is to prevent abuse of the pharmacy benefit, as defined by specific criteria, and to protect the safety of Peach State members who may be at risk due to inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances by certain prescribers.

SCOPE:

Peach State Health Plan (Peach State) Medical Management and Pharmacy Departments and Centene Pharmacy Services.

DEFINITIONS: N/A

POLICY:

To monitor and control suspected abuse or misuse of the pharmacy benefit by Peach State members, as identified and confirmed through analysis and audit by the Pharmacy Department, by blocking adjudication of controlled substance prescriptions for selected providers for a defined period of time.

PROCEDURE:

Prescribers will be audited using selected criteria from the list below to identify potential misuse of the prescription benefit.

- Prescribed medications do not correlate with the member's medical condition, as identified by member's PCP, or ICD-10 code from encounter data;
- Prescriber writes more than three controlled substance prescriptions per member on a regular basis;
- Prescriber demonstrates irregular or unsafe patterns of prescribing;
- Prescriber writes for duplicative therapy for members;
- State Composite Board of Medical Examiners has issued orders against a prescriber's license;
- Prescriber writes a disproportionate amount of controlled substance prescriptions without being board certified in pain management;
- Prescriber writes controlled substance prescriptions for patients with a known history of drug abuse or addiction;
- Prescriber prescribes controlled substance prescriptions without adequate patient monitoring (to include drug screening and labs when necessary) and follow-up;
- Referrals from the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) or other providers reporting suspected abuse
- Identification through the interdisciplinary care team rounds, documented cases of drug overdose or death of a member, or Pharmacy Services reports.
- Notification that a prescriber is deceased or no longer practicing medicine.

Once audits have been performed, and prescribers identified and confirmed to have met the criteria above, the following process shall occur:

1. Peach State's Pharmacy staff will present the cases to the review committee, which will consist of at least three health care professionals, including physicians and pharmacists.
2. When a prescriber case is presented to the review board, a decision is then made to determine if blocking of adjudication of controlled substance prescriptions is warranted. While in blocked status, prescriptions for controlled substances written by the blocked prescriber will not be paid unless prior authorization is granted.
3. While prescriber is in blocked status, ongoing monitoring will be done through review of records submitted with prior authorization requests and records specifically requested by Peach State.

4. Results of ongoing monitoring may be presented to the review committee for additional action, which may consist of removal of the block or of further sanctions.

REFERENCES: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: N/A

REGULATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: N/A

REVISION LOG

REVISION TYPE	REVISION SUMMARY	DATE APPROVED & PUBLISHED
Annual Review	Annual Review. No changes made.	10/2012
Annual Review	Annual Review. No changes made.	10/2013
Annual Review	Annual Review. No changes made	10/2014
Annual Review	Annual Review. Updated reference of ICD-9 to ICD-10	10/2015
Annual Review	Annual Review. No changes made.	10/2016
Annual Review	Annual Review. Change US Script to Envolve Pharmacy Solutions.	7/2017
Annual Review	Annual Review. No changes made	10/2017
Annual Review	Annual Review. No changes made	7/2018
Ad Hoc Review	Changed current Georgia policy templates to corporate standard templates for standard operating policy/procedures criteria to meet corporate compliance. Changes/revisions included; new formatting, font size, use of standard policy language for each section of policy, and rearranged order of certain steps in criteria and sections.	2/2019
Annual Review	Annual review. No changes made.	7/2019
Annual Review	Annual review. No changes made.	7/2020
Annual Review	Annual review. No changes made.	7/2021
Annual Review	4Q 2021 annual review. No changes made.	10/2021
Ad Hoc Review	Changed Envolve Pharmacy Solutions to Centene Pharmacy Services.	7/2022
Annual Review	4Q 2022 annual review. No changes made.	10/2022
Annual Review	4Q 2023 annual review. Changed to new policy template.	10/2023

POLICY AND PROCEDURE APPROVAL

The electronic approval retained in RSA Archer, the Company's P&P management software, is considered equivalent to a signature.