



Oregon

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To: Oregon Health Plan clients

From: Jean S. Phillips, Deputy Administrator
Division of Medical Assistance Programs

Subject: "Open card" prescriptions for long-acting opioids

Our records show that sometime between May 1, 2009, and June 5, 2009, you had a prescription for one or more of the following long-acting opioid (LAO) drugs, and you are not enrolled in a managed care plan:

- Extended release form of Avinza, Duragesic, Kadian, Opana ER, or Oxycontin
- Similar generic drug (*e.g.*, fentanyl patch, oxymorphone or oxycodone)

Starting July 1, 2009, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will change coverage for fee-for-service, or "open card" prescriptions for these drugs:

- OHP will no longer cover two of these drugs at the same time.
- OHP will only pay for these drugs when they are prescribed for a condition listed above Line 503 on the Prioritized List of Health Services.
- When it is time to renew your prescription, your health care provider will have to contact the Oregon Pharmacy Call Center to see if OHP will pay for it.

These changes do not apply to short-acting versions of these drugs.

About OHP drug coverage:

The Prioritized List of Health Services is a list of medical conditions and treatments. The most effective services are at the top of the list. The least effective are at the bottom. Your prescription should be for a medical condition listed between Lines 1 and 503 on the Prioritized List.

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OHP usually does not cover use of long-acting opioids for disorders such as fibromyalgia or back pain. However, OHP may pay for the drug if the non-covered disorder is connected to other covered medical conditions, such as spinal deformity. Your health care provider will know how this information applies to you.

If your renewal is not approved:

If DMAP does not approve your LAO renewal, you will get a Notice of Denial that explains your right to a hearing in case you disagree with the decision.

Your doctor may also be able to prescribe a different drug. Talk to your health care provider about your choices.

Questions?

- **If you have questions about this letter** – Call OHP Client Services at 1-800-273-0557.
- **If you need this letter in another language or a different format** – Call your worker.