

Managing Pain Safely Fact Sheet for Members

Opioid Prescriptions – What We Are Doing

Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) is working with our communities, doctors, and pharmacies to make sure opioid drugs (like Morphine, Hydrocodone, Methadone, OxyContin, and others) are used safely.

Starting October 1, 2018, PHC will change the amount of opioid drug that will be covered. PHC will lower the covered opioid daily morphine equivalent dose (MED) from 120 to 90 milligrams per day. Lowering the MED from 120 to 90 follows the recommendation of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Understanding the US Opioid Epidemic



Around
46
PEOPLE

die every day from overdoses involving **prescription opioids.**

- In 2013, health care providers wrote 249 million prescriptions for opioid pain drugs. This is enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills.
- In 2016, opioids from prescriptions and street drugs killed more than 42,000 people. This is more than the 37,461 deaths from car accidents in 2016.
- In 2016, about 2 out of 3 of the 63,600 drug overdose deaths were from opioids.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Talk with your doctor and pharmacist if you have any questions about your medications.