



Please Accept UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Members Seeking Pain Management Care

As of July 15, 2016, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will no longer reimburse Seattle Pain Center clinics for services per state Medicaid direction. As a result, affected members who are your patients may seek pain management care from you as their PCP. We are also contacting our members who previously received services at Seattle Pain Center clinics to alert them to this change.

The following resources may be helpful to you in providing pain management care to these members:

UW TelePain Program

To support you in managing care for these patients, Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care plans have given funding to the University of Washington (UW) TelePain program to provide weekly case presentations and training on the management of patients with chronic pain. If you have concerns about an opioid or other substance use disorder in one of your patients, the UW TelePain sessions will include a discussion once a month about substance use disorder cases that occur in conjunction with symptoms of chronic pain.

To learn more about the UW TelePain program, please visit depts.washington.edu/anesth/care/pain/telepain or contact Sam Galey, UW TelePain coordinator, at smg1190@uw.edu.

Patients Receiving High Doses of Opioid Medication

Some patients who received services at Seattle Pain Center clinics may be on opioid doses \geq 120 mg Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED), which is higher than state rules allow without consultation. A consultation with a certified pain management specialist is usually required to continue prescribing pain medication at these doses, but the Washington State Health Care Authority has decided that presenting cases at, or participating in, the UW TelePain sessions is considered equivalent to a formal consultation. Care providers who would like to discuss patient care at the weekly UW TelePain sessions will be given priority.

To learn more about treating established patients who are already taking high dosages of opioids, the following resources are available:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain** at cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm
- **Washington State Agency Medical Director's Interagency Guide on Prescribing Opioids for Pain** at agencymeddirectors.wa.gov/Files/2015AMDGOpioidGuideline.pdf

Additional UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Services

If you have a patient who is a UnitedHealthcare Community Plan member and would benefit from case management services, please call the member services number on the back of the member's health care ID card and request case management. Patients on high doses of pain medication may also qualify for our Patient Review and Coordination program, which assigns members to a single prescriber and a single pharmacy for prescriptions. Please call 877-314-1096 for more information about this program.

If you have a patient who needs a pain management consultation with a specialist, please search for an in-network specialist at UHCCommunityPlan.com/find-a-physician.html.

Please contact UnitedHealthcare Community Plan at 877-542-9231 if you have questions.

Thank you.