

## Pain Safety Initiative (PSI)

Opioid toxicity and abuse is a public health concern in the United States due to the alarming increase in the number of opioid-related deaths. Opioid prescribing continues to fuel the epidemic. Benefits of high-dose opioids for chronic pain are not established and at the same time, risks for serious harm related to opioid therapy increase at higher opioid dosages. Because of this, safe and appropriate opioid prescribing and utilization is a priority in health care.<sup>1</sup>

Molina Healthcare of Michigan (Molina) is committed to stifling the effects of the opioid epidemic on our Members. To this end, Molina has developed a comprehensive substance use disorder plan that includes a Pain Safety Initiative (PSI). The Pain Safety Initiative (PSI) is composed of over 40 measures that leverage the tools available to us to support judicious prescribing practices, focus on improved member outcomes, identify overuse, misuse and fraud, and support activities that result in safer communities.

**Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**, Molina will set a cumulative MEDD limit of 90 MME on pharmacy claims for Medicaid beneficiaries. This limit will prevent pharmacies from dispensing quantities of opioids that exceed prescribing guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Michigan Medicaid Fee-For-Service and all MI Medicaid Health Plans will align in this initiative.

Molina requires Providers to adhere to Molina's drug formularies and prescription policies designed to prevent abuse or misuse of high-risk chronic pain medication. Providers are expected to offer additional education and support to Members regarding Opioid and pain safety as needed. Providers may access additional Opioid-safety and Substance Use Disorder resources at [www.molinahealthcare.com](http://www.molinahealthcare.com) under the Health Resource tab. Please consult with your Provider Network Manager or reference the medication formulary for more information on Molina's Pain Safety Initiatives.

**Thank you for serving Molina members.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Injury Prevention and Control: Prescription Opioid Overdose Data. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/overdose.html>