
Clinical Practice Guideline

Management of Chronic Noncancer Pain with Opioids in Adults

Revised / Effective: July 2024
Next Review: June 2026

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The health plan supports the recommendations of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for the management of chronic pain with opioids in adults.

REFERENCE

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *Managing Chronic Pain in Adults With or in Recovery From Substance Use Disorders*. Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series 54. HHS publication ID (SMA) 13-4671. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; 2011. Available at: <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/TIP-54-Managing-Chronic-Pain-in-Adults-With-or-in-Recovery-From-Substance-Use-Disorders/SMA13-4671>. Accessed June 18, 2024.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Management of Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain Working Group. *VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain*. Washington (DC): Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense; 2022. Available at: <https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/pain/cot/> Accessed June 18, 2024.
- Additional educational materials are included on the health plan's website.

POSITION STATEMENT

The SAMHSA guideline is supported by the health plan because they are based on scientific evidence, and where evidence is lacking, on expert panel consensus judgment. The guidelines reflect the current standard of care.

- The panel members are recognized experts the field, practicing in a variety of professional settings.
- The recommendations are based on a well-defined, comprehensive scientific literature search.
- The methods used to critically appraise the evidence are transparent.
- The guideline clearly states the strength of the evidence for which recommendations are based.
- Source of funding for guideline development is reported.

GUIDELINE ADOPTION AND RECOMMENDED USE

This guideline has been adopted based on nationally and locally recognized sources. This guideline is based on the most recent medical evidence at the time of the report or on a consensus of panel experts. The health plan adopts guidelines to help practitioners and members make decisions about appropriate health care for specific medical conditions. Guidelines are not a substitute for professional medical advice.

BENEFIT DETERMINATION

Benefit determinations should be based in all cases on the applicable contract coverage. To the extent that there are any conflicts between these guidelines and the contract language, the contract language takes precedence.

Date of Origin: July 2015