



## Pharmacy Updates

### Single PDL

Beginning January 1, 2020, County Care Health Plan will cover medications listed on the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (HFS) preferred drug list (PDL). Patients and providers will receive communications (mail and electronic) regarding these changes in the forthcoming months from County Care Health Plan.

### Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA)

Electronic prior authorization (ePA) is a great tool for providers to prospectively initiate a prior authorization within their patient's electronic medical record (EMR). In addition to being able to initiate a prior authorization through telephone (888-402-1982) and fax (858-790-7100), providers can now use MedPrescription to initiate an electronic prior authorization (ePA). Providers can register for ePA access and be shown a live demo at [covermymeds.com](http://covermymeds.com). This new interface will lead to real-time approval for medications, lower costs for medications, and less disruption in care. In addition, it will also improve medication adherence and quality of care for the patient.

### Support Act

Effective October 1, 2019, County Care Health Plan will have an opioid safety program in place. In accordance with the Substance Use- Disorder Prevention Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patient and Communities Act, Medicaid plans are required to implement specific opioid safety measures. This program will deny any incoming claim that meets or exceeds a member's daily cumulative morphine milligram equivalent (MME). MME is a calculated equivalent morphine dose based on the comparative potency between a dose of morphine to a dose of the prescribed opioid. The program will exempt the following patients: those in hospice care, those residents of long-term care facilities (LTC), those receiving palliative or end-of-life care, those being treated for active cancer-related pain and those having sickle cell disease. The goal of the program is to minimize the potential for opioid prescription drug abuse/misuse and reduce the number of unintentional overdose deaths associated with pain medications.