



## **IMPORTANT PHARMACY UPDATES RELATED TO OPIOID MEDICATIONS**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released new safety rules for opioid medications. Opioids are drugs that are used to reduce pain. Opioids have benefits, but also have serious risks. Taking large amounts, alone or with other medications, can lead to major problems like addiction, mental disability or overdose. Taking opioids the wrong way can also reduce their effectiveness.

Beginning March 1, 2021, your pharmacy will give you additional safety tips for new opioid prescriptions. CountyCare will also review refills of any current opioid prescriptions to make sure you are not receiving multiple medications for the same condition. We will also be looking at high doses and early refills of opioids.

CountyCare Health Plan is proud to be your health care partner. We are here to help you. We can also answer any questions you may have. Call us. We can be reached at 1-312-864-8200, 711 (TDD/TTY).

CountyCare Pharmacy Department