



advisor COMMUNICATION

May 2017

Changes to RWAM's Narcotic Pain Medication Policy

Opioid dependence has increasingly become a health issue with implications for individuals and the private and public sectors. RWAM has maintained a Narcotic Pain Medication monitoring policy for several years, to limit overuse and misuse, including the use of opioids.

However with more concerns arising regarding abuse potential of these strong medications, effective May 2017, RWAM has delisted non-abuse-deterrent forms of opioids (generic forms of oxycodone CR) for which an abuse-deterrent alternative (OxyNeo) is available.

Plan members currently using a generic version of oxycodone CR have been grandfathered for a two month period to allow time to switch to OxyNeo.

Although this delisting provides safeguards and precautionary measures in opioid management, minimal impact to RWAM plan members is expected:

- Doctors are already prescribing the abuse-deterrent alternative (OxyNeo) except in very unique situations.
- Only a very small number of RWAM's plan members will be affected. Each member has been notified by letter of the change and action required.

Current strategies and processes of RWAM's Narcotic Pain Medication monitoring policy remain a core practice, and will continue to evolve as the need arises.

Please contact your RWAM Group Marketing Representative if you have any questions.