

# WCF Insurance Opioid Protocols

**At WCF Insurance, we witness the devastating effects of opioid abuse on Utah's workers, employers, and communities.** That's why we have partnered with *Mitchell Pharmacy Solutions* to develop a program to prevent the unnecessary and unintended consequences of inappropriate opioid use. The program, which will go into effect on March 1, 2017, applies utilization-review protocols based on the ACOEM Practice Guidelines to all first-fill opioids.

We appreciate your help in changing Utah's startling statistics. Here are some program guidelines that will apply to many common situations:

## Acute, Non-severe Pain

WCF Insurance will not approve opioids for the treatment of non-severe, acute pain related to minor injuries such as sprains, strains, and contusions.

## Acute, Severe Pain (including post-operative pain)

Opioid therapy that does not exceed 50 MED daily may be appropriate for one to three weeks. The first fill will be limited to a 14-day supply. Refills, in most cases, will be subject to medically documented functional improvement.

## Sub-acute Phase (one to three months)

Opioid therapy may be indicated if the patient demonstrates functional improvement and is not at increased risk due to one of these or other known complicating factors:

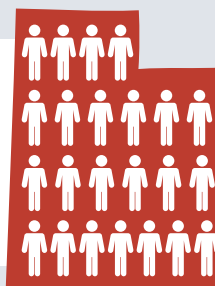
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Personality disorder
- ADHD
- Substance-abuse history
- Untreated sleep disorders
- COPD
- Asthma
- Aberrant behaviors

## Chronic Phase (three+ months post-injury)

Continued opioid therapy may be indicated if the patient is involved in a functional restoration program as long as there is a planned taper upon functional improvement or discharge from active care.

Physicians who prescribe opioids for chronic care should conduct regular random drug screens and reviews of the DOPL controlled-substance database. Physicians must address all results that suggest diversion, non-compliance, or other aberrant behaviors. In these cases, WCF Insurance will work with the prescribing physician to discontinue the use of opioids responsibly.

Every month in Utah,  
**23 people die**  
from prescription  
drug overdoses



400%



Utah has seen a  
**400% Increase**  
in opioid deaths  
from 2000-2015\*

## QUESTIONS about the program?

Please call: **Debra Mayo - UR manager**  
385.351.8073  
**Paola Stauffer - VP, claims**  
385.351.8176

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