



Division: Pharmacy Policy	Subject: Prior Authorization Criteria
Original Development Date: Original Effective Date: Revision Date:	December 21, 2015 January 15, 2016, March 3, 2016, March 12, 2018

Morphine sulfate, extended release

LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION: UP TO 3 MONTHS

INITIAL REVIEW CRITERIA:

- Patient is \geq 18 years old AND
- Patient has a diagnosis of severe, chronic pain (malignant or chronic non-malignant pain) that requires daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment as supported by progress notes, discharge notes or health conditions AND
- Patient has tried and failed or has an intolerance or contraindication to the preferred long-acting oral morphine product formulation AND
- Morphine sulfate, extended release is prescribed on a scheduled basis (**not** “as needed” dosing) AND
- The prescribed dose does not exceed 15 mg by mouth every 8 to 12 hours OR
- The patient is opioid tolerant as evidenced by recent history (within the past two weeks) of receiving daily opioid analgesics at the following minimum doses for at least one week:
 - ✓ 60 mg oral morphine per day for at least one week
 - ✓ 25 mcg/hour of transdermal fentanyl for at least one week
 - ✓ 30 mg oral oxycodone per day for at least one week
 - ✓ 8 mg oral hydromorphone per day for at least one week
 - ✓ 25 mg of oral oxymorphone per day for at least one week

CONTINUATION OF THERAPY REVIEW CRITERIA:

- Patient continues to meet all of the initial review criteria AND
- Patient has been compliant with medication refills AND
- Patient has no medication fills for any other long acting opioid AND
- There is no history of behavior indicative of abuse including requests for early refills

DOSING & ADMINISTRATION:

- For patients who are NOT opioid tolerant (see definition below), initiate treatment with morphine sulfate, extended release 15 mg by mouth every 8 to 12 hours
- The dose of morphine sulfate, extended release in patients who are opioid-tolerant (see definition below) will vary depending on their previous opioid dose and formulation
- Definition of opioid tolerant:
 - Receiving 60 mg oral morphine per day for at least one week OR
 - Receiving 25 mcg/hour of transdermal fentanyl for at least one week OR
 - Receiving 30 mg oral oxycodone per day for at least one week OR
 - Receiving 8 mg oral hydromorphone per day for at least one week OR
 - Receiving 25 mg of oral oxymorphone per day for at least one week.