

March 2024

### Business Updates



#### **Change in the method we will provide 60-day notices**

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) is excited to share with you that we have improved our 60-day notice process for communicating upcoming changes that affect medical review criteria, pharmacy criteria and payment policies in the provider manual. This process improvement does not affect nor override Section XIII.K. Modifications in your contract agreement.

Effective immediately, 60-day notices will no longer be mailed to your organization. You will continue to be notified of current 60-day notices on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month in the monthly [Provider eNews](#) (see the Provider Notices section below) and we will continue to post them on the [Provider Notices](#) web page on our provider site. Please calendar time on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to read the Provider eNews and visit the Provider Notices page to view current 60-day notices.

This new process allows us to communicate upcoming changes to you more efficiently and effectively, easing the burden of receiving multiple mailings from us each month. Additionally, you will receive the information much more quickly, allowing you to plan for these changes well in advance of the implementation. If you have any questions about this change, please contact your contract manager.



#### **Introducing the Specialty and High-Cost Medication Advanced Review Partnership (SHARP)**

We are excited to introduce our Specialty and High-Cost Medication Advanced Review Partnership (SHARP), developed for the specialty pharmacy needs of Kaiser Permanente members. This partnership is a physician-pharmacist team that may proactively reach out to your clinic when you have submitted a medication requiring prior authorization that is likely to be denied. Currently, teams exist for Dermatology, Gastroenterology, and Oncology medications. The team exists to provide guidance to you about alternate agents that are likely to be approved and help with conditional approvals. The advantages to your clinic include reduced waiting times for your patients to get their prescriptions, reduced denials and appeals (and associated paperwork), and an expedited process for changes in prescriptions that you approve.

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The physicians who may reach out to you (and their contact information) are below. You are welcome to proactively reach out to them as well with any questions:

For Dermatology: Rahat Azfar, MD (973-951-8291) or Janie Leonhardt, MD (856-465-2516)

For Gastroenterology: Steve Lin, MD (617-331-7699) or Sophia Swanson, MD (917-657-0448)

For Oncology: Camille Puronen, MD (206-972-6612)

If you have any feedback about the program, positive or negative, please contact Brad Pope at [Bradley.W.Pope@kp.org](mailto:Bradley.W.Pope@kp.org).

### Clinical Updates



#### Opioid Use Disorder Guideline updates

Kaiser Permanente's [Opioid Use Disorder Guideline](#) has been reviewed and updated. The guideline addresses the diagnosis and treatment of opioid use disorder in adults, teens, and pregnant patients.

#### New in this edition

- Recommendations for initiating buprenorphine/naloxone in urgent care and ER settings
- Three options for initiating buprenorphine/naloxone:
  - 3-day protocol (most common) for patients using any type of opioids, including fentanyl
  - Microdosing protocol for patients cross-tapering from prescribed opioids
  - Full withdrawal protocol for patients experiencing severe withdrawal symptoms on presentation
- A stronger recommendation for continuing OUD treatment long-term
- Recommendations to consider long-acting injectable extended-release buprenorphine for a subset of patients who meet prior authorization criteria
- Considerations for OUD treatment for patients using kratom
- Updated monitoring requirements for patients taking buprenorphine

#### Questions?

Katie Paul, MD, MPH, [Kathleen.J.Paul@kp.org](mailto:Kathleen.J.Paul@kp.org)

Avra Cohen, MN, RN, [Avra.L.Cohen@kp.org](mailto:Avra.L.Cohen@kp.org)

### Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute News



#### When is Paxlovid right for COVID-19 treatment?

New risk model uses advanced analytics to guide informed treatment decisions at Kaiser Permanente Washington.

# Provider E-News

## Provider Services Department



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### [What works to meet complex needs in diabetes care?](#)

KPWHRI's ACT Center is partnering with a nonprofit to help engage patients and provide comprehensive, whole-person care.

## Provider Notices



All notices below can be viewed on our [Provider Notices](#) page on the [Kaiser Permanente provider site](#). Please check our provider site on a regular basis for provider manual changes and updates. We communicate changes to the [Provider Manual](#) in the [Provider eNews](#) for your convenience. However, it is your responsibility to remain updated on any changes by visiting our site regularly for updates on our policies and procedures. Thank you for your partnership in the care of our members.

- [Change in the method we will provide 60-day notices](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Apolipoprotein E \(APOE\) genotyping](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for hypoglossal nerve stimulation](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for pneumatic compression devices](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for ultrasonic bone growth stimulators](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for intraosseous basivertebral nerve ablation](#)
- [Oncology products updated prior authorization criteria](#)
- [Enzyme replacement therapies updated prior authorization criteria](#)
- [Golimumab \(Simponi Aria\) updated prior authorization criteria](#)
- [Medicare part B drugs requiring prior authorization](#)
- [Medicare part B drugs requiring step therapy](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for home pulse oximetry and continuous passive motion \(CPM\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for MRI Brain & MRI Cervical \(PDF\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for MRI Brain & MRI Cervical \(PDF\)](#)
- [The following neurology medications not covered under the medical benefit \(PDF\)](#)
- [Guselkumab \(Tremfya\) not covered under the medical benefit \(PDF\)](#)
- [Teriparatide \(Forteo\) not covered under the medical benefit \(PDF\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy \(ABA\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for elective cardiac defibrillator and pacemaker placements](#)

# Provider E-News

## Provider Services Department



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### EFT Deposit & Check Mailing Dates

#### 2024 Calendar



#### EFT deposit and check mail dates

Provider reimbursement checks are scheduled to be deposited ACH or mailed on the following dates. Mailed checks should arrive within approximately three business days.

<b>JANUARY</b>	1, 19, 25	<b>JULY</b>	5, 11, 18, 25
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	1, 7, 15, 23, 29	<b>AUGUST</b>	1, 7, 15, 22, 29
<b>MARCH</b>	7, 14, 21, 28	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	6, 12, 19, 26
<b>APRIL</b>	4, 11, 18, 25	<b>OCTOBER</b>	7, 10, 17, 24, 31
<b>MAY</b>	7, 9, 16, 23, 31	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	7, 14, 21, 29
<b>JUNE</b>	6, 13, 20, 27	<b>DECEMBER</b>	5, 12, 19, 27

#### Kaiser Permanente holidays

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
Monday, January 1

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**  
Monday, January 15

**PRESIDENTS' DAY**  
Monday, February 19

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
Monday, May 27

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
Thursday, July 4

**LABOR DAY**  
Monday, September 2

**THANKSGIVING**  
Thursday, November 28

**CHRISTMAS**  
Wednesday, December 25

### Provider Resources



Submit a [Provider Update Form](#) to inform us of changes to your practice.



View our [Provider Directory](#).



Specialty Services

Learn more about our [Specialty Services](#).



Read our latest [Formulary Decision Highlights](#).



View our 7 formularies on our [Formulary](#) page or [ePocrates](#).



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