

We're implementing point-of-sale edit for concurrent use of opioids, benzodiazepines beginning mid-October 2025

Beginning the week of Oct. 13, 2025, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network will implement a point-of-sale edit for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage claims for concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines. This action is in response to concerns brought forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The drug safety edit will reject opioid and benzodiazepine claims for members 18 years of age or older who are using an opioid and benzodiazepine concurrently with an overlap of 14 days or greater.

Exemptions from this edit:

- Members in hospice, receiving palliative care or being treated for cancer or sickle cell anemia
- UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust plan members

Note: The POS edit will apply for Prescription BlueSM PDP plan members beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

Members already taking opioids and benzodiazepines concurrently for greater than 14 days have received authorizations through Dec. 31, 2025, so they can continue therapy without interruption. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, any member continuing to have 14 days or greater overlap between opioids and benzodiazepines will be subject to a coverage review.

Important information

If members don't meet one of the above exemption criteria, they'll need a coverage determination request, preferably completed by their prescriber. The prescriber should submit the CDR to the Pharmacy Clinical Help Desk using an electronic prior authorization portal such as CoverMyMeds or SureScripts, which can be accessed through our provider portal ([availity.com](https://www.availity.com)).*

If you have any questions or require assistance, contact the Pharmacy Clinical Help Desk at 1-800-437-3803 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

For a complete list of drugs and associated requirements, go to [Drug Lists for Medicare Members](#).

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