Blue Cross’ Opioid Policy

- Implemented new opioid coverage policies to decrease the quantity of opioids in the community and minimize the number of patients who become chronic opioid users, while still meeting the needs of our members.
- Members may have a limit on how many days’ supply of an opioid drug they can fill at a time, or their doctors may need to ask for prior authorization before filling an opioid drug.
  - Exceptions for most members who were already on long-term pain medications when policy went into effect and for those taking these drugs because they have cancer or are receiving end-of-life care.
- Blue Cross developed this policy after considering a breadth of clinical guidelines, industry best practices, state regulatory requirements, and our own member population.
Opioid Utilization in a Commercial Population

- Since Jan. 1, 2016, the number of opioid prescriptions per member per month is **28.3% lower**; and the number of opioids dispensed in our communities is **33.2% fewer**.

- From Jan. 1, 2018 to Jan. 1, 2019, Blue Cross’ Opioid Overutilization program’s first full year, we show nearly **13% fewer opioid prescriptions** per 1,000 members and **18.3% fewer opioid quantities** dispensed per member per month.

**Members** can learn about Safer Pain Care at: [bcbsla.com/pharmacy](http://bcbsla.com/pharmacy)
Opioid Policy and Community Involvement

• Partnered with our Foundation, the state Attorney General and other partners to provide at least one safe place to drop off unwanted drugs – no questions asked – in nearly every parish.

  • Currently, there are more than 55 boxes around the state, with most parishes hosting one. East Baton Rouge Parish currently has three drop boxes, and nearby parishes Livingston and West Baton Rouge have one each. Visit www.bcbsla.com/safedrugdrop to find permanent drug drop off boxes.

• Each year, Blue Cross plays a role in organizing and promoting Drug Take Back Day with the DEA and other healthcare partners across the parish. Several hundred pounds of unused medicines are collected at this event each year.

• We continue to support efforts that educate our members about opioid misuse or overuse and keep our communities safe from the harmful effects of opioid drugs.