

## **Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire) Hot Tip: Chronic Pain**

Your Empire patients on nonpreferred products may experience a pharmacy claim rejection. To avoid additional steps or delays at the pharmacy, consider prescribing preferred products whenever possible. Prior authorization and step therapy may apply to select preferred products. Coverage should be verified by reviewing the *Preferred Drug List (PDL)* on the Empire provider website. The *PDL* is subject to change quarterly.

Therapeutic class	Nonpreferred products	Preferred products
Chronic pain <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arymo ER (morphine sulfate ER)</li> <li>• Duragesic (fentanyl patch)</li> <li>• Exalgo (hydromorphone ER)</li> <li>• Hydromorphone ER (generic Exalgo)</li> <li>• Hydrocodone ER (generic Zohydro ER)</li> <li>• Hysingla ER (hydrocodone bitartrate ER)</li> <li>• Ionsys (fentanyl patch)</li> <li>• Kadian ER (morphine sulfate ER)</li> <li>• Morphabond ER (morphine sulfate ER)</li> <li>• Morphine sulfate ER caps (generic Kadian ER)</li> <li>• MS Contin (morphine sulfate ER)</li> <li>• Opana ER (oxymorphone ER)</li> <li>• Oxycodone ER (generic Oxycontin)</li> <li>• Oxycontin CR (oxycodone ER)</li> <li>• Oxymorphone ER (generic Opana ER)</li> <li>• Xtampza ER (oxycodone ER)</li> <li>• Zohydro ER (hydrocodone ER)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morphine sulfate ER tabs<sup>2</sup> (generic MS Contin)</li> <li>• Fentanyl patch<sup>3</sup> (generic Duragesic)</li> <li>• Methadone tablets and solution<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
<p>1 Prior authorization for medical necessity is required for all long-acting opiate products.                  2 Morphine sulfate ER <b>capsules</b> are non-preferred, while morphine sulfate ER <b>tablets</b> are preferred.                  3 Fentanyl patch (generic Duragesic) is available as a preferred agent in the following strengths: 12 mcg/hr, 25 mcg/hr, 50 mcg/hr, 75 mcg/hr, and 10 mcg/hr.                  4 Methadone request will only be approved for pain indications.</p>		

If you have questions regarding this *Hot Tip*, call Provider Services at **1-800-450-8753**.

**PDL:** <https://mediproviders.empireblue.com/ny/pages/formularies.aspx>