



How much of a prescription drug can you get at a time?

Most of us know what it's like to go to the doctor or pick up a prescription medication. But, do you know what to do when your prescription requires a prior authorization before it can be filled as part of your State Health Plan prescription drug benefits?

When you are filling a prescription, your State Health Plan prescription drug benefits take into account whether a drug is covered, whether it's a generic or a brand name and the quantity of the medication prescribed. Prescribed medication quantities which don't fall within U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidelines for safety and effectiveness may not be covered by the Plan and may require a coverage review.

Drug quantity management, like other kinds of coverage reviews, is a research-based tool Express Scripts, your pharmacy benefits manager, uses for some prescriptions to ensure your health and safety and to help keep costs down for you, the Plan and your employer, who pays most of your premiums.

How quantity management works

When your pharmacist is filling your prescription, he works with Express Scripts to determine if the amount prescribed is covered by the Plan. If a quantity limit is in place for your medication, you have several options:

- **Fill the prescription in the amount allowed by the Plan.** Since the limit is in place in part to ensure your health and safety, the limited quantity may work for your situation.
- **Ask your pharmacist to talk to your doctor about increasing your dosage.** With this option, you can take fewer higher-dosage pills less frequently, or split the higher-dosage pills to take a lower dose each day.
- **Your pharmacist and doctor could decide to request a coverage review** to see if the quantity initially prescribed could be cleared for your situation.

For questions or concerns, contact Express Scripts at 855.612.3128. Or, you can register online through www.Express-Scripts.com to see your prescription history, manage your medications and learn more about drugs and price estimates. The Express Scripts mobile app (www.Express-Scripts.com/mobileapp) offers all this as well as powerful tools for dosage, reordering and safety reminders.

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