



QI Weekly



Humana 2021 Pharmacy Changes

Double Threat Enhancement

Double threat: patients prescribed both an opioid and a benzodiazepine

Beginning January 1, 2021, Humana will implement a “hard reject” at point of sale for new patients being prescribed this combination of medications.

Providers may request additional time for coverage while de-prescribing or tapering these medications. Provider will need to attest, through Humana’s standard exceptions process, to the benefit outweighing the risk for continuing the combination.

Current utilizers will be grandfathered to minimize unintended consequences of abruptly stopping the use of one or both medications. A “soft reject” will apply in these situations.

Situation	Reject
Overlap in Opioid/Benzodiazepine (ER Opioids only)	Hard Reject
Overlap in Opioid/Benzodiazepine (Grandfathered) Grandfathered: member has been on the drug with the same HICL in the last 180 days	Soft Reject
Overlap in Opioid/Benzodiazepine (New Start) New Start: member has not been on the drug with the same HICL in the last 180 days	Hard Reject

Types of Rejects

- **Soft Reject** - Pharmacist can override by submitting a PPS code
- **Hard Reject** - Can only be overridden with a prior authorization via Humana Clinical Pharmacy Review (HCPR) clinical determination