

# Medical Office Update

December

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## Join our email list

Join our email list in order to begin receiving bi-monthly newsletters, as well as occasional electronic communications.

Sign up now

## Network changes coming in 2025: What you need to know

With the 2025 plan year just around the corner, we'd like to remind you about some important changes to our networks, **beginning January 1, 2025.**

- **Beacon Network (for Individuals) will transition to the Affinity Network** – On 1/1/25, the Beacon Network will be replaced with our statewide Affinity Network. Individual members will not have out-of-network benefits, so please confirm your contractual participation and member plan benefits.
- **Medicare Advantage Network will no longer be offered in Oregon** – Starting 1/1/25, Moda Health and Summit Health will no longer offer Medicare Advantage plans in the state of Oregon.

If you have questions about these network changes, please email our Provider Relations team at [providerrelations@modahealth.com](mailto:providerrelations@modahealth.com).

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## Earn CEU credit with free risk adjustment webinars

Join Moda Health's free monthly webinars on risk adjustment coding and documentation topics with vendor partner, Veradigm. Plus, coders are eligible to earn 1 CEU credit per topic through the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). The webinars take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., Pacific Time.

Sign up for any of these upcoming webinars:

- **December 17 or 19:** Narrow it Down: Documentation and Coding for Vascular Disorders
- **January 28 or 30:** 2025 Coding Updates: New Near, New Codes!
- **February 25 or 27:** The A, B, Cs of Coding for Common Pediatric Conditions
- **March 25 or 27:** Health Equity: Ensuring You Are Properly Coding and Documenting for SDOH Disparities

[Register here!](#) Be sure to enter “Moda Health” in the Health Plan Partner field when completing online registration form. For questions, email us at [ProviderEngagement@veradigm.com](mailto:ProviderEngagement@veradigm.com).

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## Caring for all through cultural competency

Cultural competency is being aware of and sensitive to the different needs of patients. These needs can include race, ethnicity, primary language, age, where they live, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical abilities or limitations, spiritual beliefs, economic status and literacy.

Moda Health is dedicated to building strong and healthy relationships between health providers and their patients. As part of our Cultural Competency Program, we encourage you to use our available resources and training to better understand and meet the needs of your patients.

For more information about resources and trainings, please visit:

- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Clinical Conversations Training Program - Health Literacy Modules](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services \(HRSA\)](#)
  - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – Effective Communication for Healthcare Teams](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Think Cultural Health](#)
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## Infused medication criteria changes coming in 2025

As part of our commitment to provide members with high-quality, affordable care, Moda Health is updating the coverage criteria for tocilizumab products (e.g., Actemra, Tofidence, Tyenne), Fasenra [J0517], and Cinqair [J2786] in 2025.

- **Fasenra [J0517] and Cinqair [J2786]**  
**Starting February 1, 2025**, all Moda Health members beginning therapy with Fasenra or Cinqair will be required to have had an inadequate response to an adequate trial of, or contraindication or intolerance to, at least two of the following: mepolizumab (Nucala®) [J2182], dupilumab (Dupixent®), tezepelumab-ekko (Tezspire®) [J2356], and/or omalizumab (Xolair®) [J2357], unless deemed medically inappropriate.
- **Tocilizumab products (e.g., Actemra, Tofidence, Tyenne):**  
**Beginning January 1, 2025**, all Moda Health members starting or renewing therapy with tocilizumab will be limited to receiving tocilizumab (Tyenne) [Q5135], unless deemed medically inappropriate.

If you have questions about these changes, please email our Provider Relations team at [providerrelations@modahealth.com](mailto:providerrelations@modahealth.com).

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## 6 tips for safe opioid prescribing

Dear Provider,

Pain is one of the most common reasons people seek medical care, opioids are still widely used for pain management. Healthcare providers play a key role in ensuring opioids are prescribed safely and that patients understand how to use them properly. Consider some of these recommendations to help your patients use opioids safely for acute (pain present <1 month), subacute (1-3 months) and chronic (≥3 months) pain:

1. **Encourage patients to fill all prescriptions at one pharmacy.** This helps pharmacists keep track of all medications, checking for potential drug interactions and allergies to ensure safe use.
2. **Regularly check your state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP).** The CDC recommends reviewing the PDMP before prescribing opioids to help spot safety issues like high doses or risky drug combos. Sign up for a PDMP account at [Oregon Health Authority's website](#).
3. **Start with the lowest effective opioid dose for the shortest time.** The CDC guidelines<sup>1</sup> say this helps reduce side effects and lowers the risk of long-term use for your patients.
4. **Consider non-opioid treatments.** Medications like NSAIDs, gabapentin, and pregabalin work well for many types of pain (i.e., musculoskeletal injuries, lower back pain, etc.), and should be maximized for all pain types.
5. **Follow up regularly.** Check in with patients on opioids for acute pain at least every two weeks, and more often for chronic pain. Having the same provider for follow-ups helps ensure consistent care throughout their health journey.
6. **Offer naloxone to high-risk patients.** Naloxone can save lives in case of an overdose. Prescribe it with opioids to higher-risk patients, such as those with a history of overdose, substance use disorder, or who are taking high doses of opioids or benzodiazepines. It's also a good idea to offer naloxone to anyone caring for them.

**Questions? We're here to help!**

Visit the [CDC website](#) to learn about opioid prescribing guidelines or call our Moda Health Pharmacy Customer Service team at **888-361-1610**.

As always, we appreciate your support in helping our members to better health and overall wellness.

Sincerely,

Your Moda Health Medical Provider Relations team

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<sup>1</sup>Dowell D, Ragan KR, Jones CM, Baldwin GT, Chou R. CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain - United States, 2022. *MMWR Recomm Rep.* 2022;71(3):1-95. Published 2022 Nov 4. doi:10.15585/mmwr.rr7103a1

## Additional Information

Looking for additional information about this month's topics? Click the button below for our new comprehensive document. This month it will contain:

- [Reimbursement Policy Manual updates for October and November 2024](#)
- [Medical Necessity Criteria updates for July and August 2024](#)
- [Medical Necessity Criteria updates for September and October 2024](#)

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### Moda Health Medical Customer Service

For claims review, adjustment requests and/or billing policies, please call 888-217-2363 or email [medical@modahealth.com](mailto:medical@modahealth.com).

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