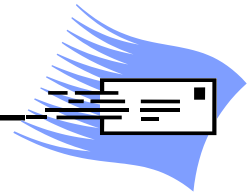




# ManateeChoice Health Plan

## *Fast Facts*



**FAST FACTS** is published by the Manatee Health Network (MHN) to provide Members with the opportunity to better understand medical conditions, various treatment options, and the impact of these options on member costs. **FAST FACTS** should be used in addition to the advice of your physicians, pharmacists, & other healthcare professionals.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PAIN MEDICATION Substance Abuse, Addiction and Cost**

There are a variety of pain medications that doctors may prescribe to help people who suffer from pain. Doctors consider many factors to choose the right pain medication for each person. These factors include the type and severity of pain, the medications that a person has tried in the past to treat pain, and other medications that the person is currently taking that may interfere with the pain medication. Doctors also consider a person's lifestyle factors, such as:

- Does he or she drive heavy machinery?
- Does he or she drink alcohol?
- Has he or she experienced adverse effects from pain medications in the past?

One type of pain medication called morphine sulfate extended release is available in a variety of strengths for both 12-hour and 24-hour relief. These medications are most commonly used for the chronic treatment of moderate to severe pain. Only your doctor can decide which medication is best for you. If your doctor decides that a morphine sulfate extended release medication is right for you, he or she may pick from several products, such as:

Product	Available Strengths	Extended Release
Avinza	30mg, 45mg, 60mg, 75mg, 90mg, 120mg	24-hours
Kadian	10mg, 20mg, 30mg, 50mg, 60mg, 80mg, 100mg, 200mg	24-hours
MS Contin*	15mg, 30mg, 60mg, 100mg, 200mg	12-hours

\*Generic product available

Currently MS Contin is the only one of these medications that is available generically. This medication is usually used one time every 12 hours. If your doctor decides to switch you to MS Contin but you were previously taking a medication like Avinza or Kadian, that is used every 24 hours, it's important to remember how often you are supposed to take the medication. Always read the prescription label and double check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure how to take your medication.

#### **Did You Know?**

Narcotic analgesic products listed above are considered Schedule II controlled substances because of their potential for abuse when not taken appropriately. For this reason, there are special rules for these prescriptions. Schedule II substances must be written in "hard copy" form, so they cannot be phoned or faxed to a pharmacy. Also, since prescriptions cannot have any refills, you must get a new prescription from your doctor each month.

## Ways to Save

- Generic medications are **\$0 copay** for Manatee members at MHN Preferred Network Pharmacies! Members also save on brand name prescription drugs when they fill them at MHN Preferred Network Pharmacies. The MHN Preferred Network includes all Sweetbay Pharmacies throughout Florida, as well as Foster Drugs and Pelots Pharmacy.
- If you and your doctor decide that one of these generic prescription medications is right for you, you can save \$43 or more each month, totaling **\$516 or more per year in savings!**
- Check out the following chart to see your potential savings:

	MHN Preferred Pharmacy (Costs per Month)	Non-Preferred Pharmacy (Costs per Month)
Cost of Brand Avinza	20% of the drug cost (Approximately \$43)	25% of the drug cost (Approximately \$53)
Cost of Brand Kadian	40% of the drug cost (Approximately \$111)	50% of the drug cost (Approximately \$138)
Cost of Generic MS Contin	\$0 No cost to member	\$5
If you use instead of generic MS Contin, it will cost you an extra...	\$516 (\$43 x 12 months) -\$0 (\$0 x 12 months) <b>=\$516 per year</b>	\$636 (\$53 x 12 months) -\$60 (\$5 x 12 months) <b>=\$576 per year</b>
If you use instead of generic MS Contin, it will cost you an extra...	\$1332 (\$111 x 12 months) -\$0 (\$0 x 12 months) <b>=\$1332 per year</b>	\$1656 (138 x 12 months) -\$60 (\$5 x 12 months) <b>=\$1596 per year</b>

Only your doctor can decide which medication is right for you. If you and your doctor decide to try a different medication, your doctor just needs to write (or call-in) a prescription for one of these products.

### Manatee Health Disclaimer

The information in this newsletter is not a substitute for medical advice. It is for reference only and should not be used to determine treatment for your specific medical conditions-only a health care provider can do this. You should seek prompt medical care for any specific health issues and consult you physician regarding the use of over-the-counter products to treat any medical condition or consult your physician regarding the use of prescription or over-the-counter products to treat any medical condition or before starting any new diet, fitness, or supplement regimen.

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