



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2026

Media Contact

Chris Fox: Chris@nonopioidschoices.com

Over 100 Organizations Encourage Humana to Partner in Effort to Prevent Opioid Addiction

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 22, 2026) — Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (“Voices”), along with over 100 provider, patient, and grassroots organizations, [called](#) on Humana to expand coverage of all U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved, non-addictive, non-opioid therapies indicated for the treatment of acute pain. This change would help ensure that patients and clinicians can make pain-management decisions based on individual clinical needs rather than formulary restrictions.

"Humana has taken meaningful steps in the fight against the opioid addiction epidemic, including removing barriers to treatment for opioid use disorder, and we're optimistic they'll take this next step and we look forward to working with them to prevent opioid addiction before it starts," **said Chris Fox, Executive Director of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices**. "Expanding coverage for FDA-approved non-opioid therapies is a natural extension of the leadership they've already shown."

Research indicates that between 6 and 20 percent of patients prescribed opioids following surgery may develop new persistent opioid use.¹ Additionally, other studies of certain non-opioid approaches in common surgical settings have demonstrated reductions in postsurgical opioid consumption of up to 90 to 100 percent.²

Expanding access to non-opioid therapies gives clinicians and patients more tools to manage pain. Reducing or avoiding unnecessary opioid exposure may help lower the risk of opioid-related adverse events, persistent opioid use, diversion, and opioid use disorder.³

Voices is encouraged by the opportunity to build on Humana’s existing progress, and is asking the insurer to:

1. Include all FDA-approved, non-addictive, non-opioid therapies for acute pain on applicable formularies;
2. Provide coverage when such a therapy is prescribed or administered consistent with its FDA-approved indication and the patient's clinical needs;
3. Streamline prior authorization and step therapy requirements so patients can access non-opioid therapies without first using an opioid;
4. Align cost-sharing and reimbursement policies so they do not disadvantage non-opioid therapies relative to opioids; and

¹ 3Singh et al., Surgery 172, no. 1 (2022): 241-248. Brummett et al., JAMA Surgery 152, no. 6 (2017): e170504. Cote et al., BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders 23 (2022): 238

² 7Al-Awadhi, Yoosuf, and Malasevskiaia, Cureus 18, no. 1 (2026): e101209. van Deventer et al., Journal of Experimental Orthopaedics 10 (2023): 20.

³ Powell and Jacobson, JAMA Health Forum 6, no. 5 (2025): e250809

5. Clearly communicate available non-opioid coverage options to participating clinicians, facilities, pharmacists, and members.

Voices looks forward to continuing to work with Humana toward the shared goal of expanding patient access to effective non-opioid pain management options.

###

About Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices is a nonpartisan coalition committed to preventing opioid addiction by promoting access to non-opioid therapies for managing acute pain. The coalition works tirelessly to ensure that all Americans can benefit from effective, non-addictive pain management options, regardless of their healthcare coverage or setting. For more information, visit www.nonopioidchoices.org.