

# Summary of Washington's Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Washington's Agency Medical Directors' Group (AMDG) created an interagency guideline in 2007 for prescribing opioids for pain.
- House Bill 2876, passed in 2010, updated the existing pain management rules, effective 2011 and 2012.
- House Bill 1427, passed in 2017, required the boards and commissions of the five major health care professions with prescribing authority to update opioid-prescribing rules by January 1, 2019.
- Washington's Health Care Authority (HCA) created a Medicaid Opioid Clinical Policy to address opioid prescribing and usage.
- Medicaid policy focuses on dosages for acute usage rather than day supply or morphine milligram equivalents.

## DATA ANALYTICS

- HCA analyzes Medicaid and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data to identify at-risk patients and prescribers.
- HCA creates external reports for intervention purposes and to ensure patient safety and quality health care.

## OUTREACH

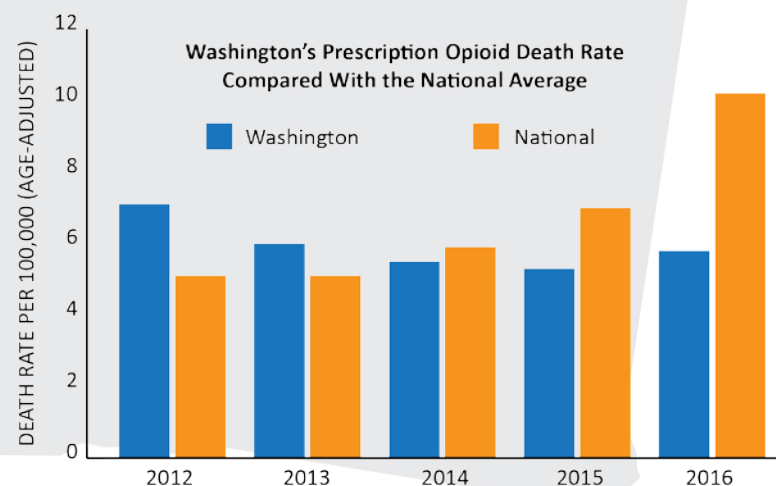
- AMDG has optional free trainings and educational videos for Medicaid providers.
- HCA sends nonfatal overdose letters to providers that are tied to a patient who had a nonfatal overdose with a concurrent opioid prescription.
- HCA sends prescriber feedback reports, which allow the prescribers to compare themselves against similar prescribers.
- HCA sends warning letters to Medicaid patients with at-risk behaviors, such as those paying in cash for prescriptions.
- Washington's Department of Health (DOH) provides opioid abuse prevention information to patients.

## PROGRAMS

- HCA and the University of Washington partner to provide the TelePain Program, which provides trainings and a pain and opioid hotline for clinicians.
- DOH is working on interstate sharing of its PDMP data.
- HCA's lock-in program, the Patient Review and Coordination program, identifies at-risk clients using Medicaid and PDMP data, and "locks in" the clients to a specific pharmacy, hospital, or primary care physician.
- Washington has 25 licensed opioid treatment programs, in which there were an estimated 9,000 Medicaid beneficiaries in March 2018.

## OTHER

- Governor's Executive Order 16-09 brought together AMDG, DOH, HCA, and related agencies to address the opioid crisis.



Source: CDC WONDER online database. Accessed at <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html> on December 22, 2017.

Note: Because deaths from illegally made fentanyl cannot be distinguished from deaths from pharmaceutical fentanyl in the data source, these data include both.

