Summary of New Hampshire’s Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- House Bill 1423 (2016) required professional medical boards to implement opioid prescribing standards.
- New Hampshire’s Controlled Drug Act (2009) requires schedule II and III prescriptions to be filled for no more than a 34-day supply per single filling (no dosage limit).
- House Bill 271 (2015) protects people making a good faith effort to help someone they believe is suffering from an opioid-related overdose.
- Medicaid payment systems have a daily morphine milligram equivalent dosage limit and require prior authorization to continue certain dosages.
- A substance use disorder benefit has been available to the entire Medicaid population since July 1, 2016.

DATA ANALYTICS

- New Hampshire uses the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for controlled drug analysis and is working to improve its access to PDMP data for its ongoing analysis.
- The Medicaid MCOs are required to perform data analytics related to opioids.

OUTREACH

- New Hampshire’s Health Alert Network emails and fax blasts healthcare providers and others on public health issues including opioid misuse concerns.
- New Hampshire initiates an array of training and professional opportunities concerning pain management and opioid addiction.
- State-wide Addiction Crisis Phone Line and dedicated websites help individuals find treatment providers.

PROGRAMS

- New Hampshire strives to focus its substance use disorder control initiatives on early identification and overdose prevention using a screening, brief intervention, referral to treatment approach.
- New Hampshire has substance use disorder program services available which include opioid specific treatment and recovery.
- The Manchester and Nashua Fire Departments’ operate a Safe Station Program in response to the opioid crisis.

OTHER

- The majority of opioid fatalities are due to illicit fentanyl.
- The Grand Families Study Commission is helping children and families devastated by opioid misuse.
- The Attorney General is participating in consumer protection lawsuits against certain pharmaceutical companies.
- New Hampshire established courts to address treatment and recovery needs of individuals with substance use disorders.


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