

# Reducing Opioid Misuse and Diversion

## A Special Innovation Project

The use of prescription opioid analgesics has increased dramatically in the United States over the past two decades. There has been a corresponding increase in fatal drug overdoses, with deaths reaching an all-time high in 2014. Opioid overdoses and deaths affect the entire population, including Medicare beneficiaries, of the states served by Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network – Delaware, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.



### About the Project

Through the Reducing Opioid Misuse and Diversion Project, Quality Insights' team will:

- Engage patients and families by providing educational materials in physician offices
- Provide tools and resources on prescribers' use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) databases
- Promote the adoption of CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain
- Serve as a convener at the state level for partners and stakeholders to promote and adopt strategies to reduce opioid misuse and diversion

As a result of these efforts, we hope to see:

- A decrease in beneficiaries who fill opioid prescriptions from multiple providers
- A decrease in beneficiaries who fill concurrent opioid prescriptions

### Fast Facts

- More than 30% of Americans have some form of acute or chronic pain; among older adults, the prevalence of chronic pain is more than 40%.
- In March 2016, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) estimated that 20% of patients seen in physician offices with non-cancer pain and/or pain-related diagnoses receive prescriptions for opioids.
- Opioid analgesics are the most commonly prescribed class of medications in the United States.
- Prescriptions for opioid pain relievers have quadrupled since 1999.
- The rate of opioid overdoses tripled between 2000 and 2014.

### Supporting Data

		National	DE	LA	NJ	PA	WV
Rate of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 residents in 2014*	Percentage	14.7	20.9	16.9	14.0	21.9	35.5
	Number	47,055	189	777	1,253	2,732	627

\*Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2014

(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6450a3.htm>)

### Get Involved

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