



Quick Reference for

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Balancing pain management with the potential risks posed by prescription opioids is complex and challenging. CDC developed clinical tools and resources to give healthcare providers information and guidance to provide the best care for patients. Download and share the helpful resources below.

CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

CDC developed the Guideline to provide recommendations for prescribing opioids for chronic pain to patients 18 and older in primary care outside of active cancer, palliative, and end of life care. The Guideline addresses:

- When to initiate or continue opioids for chronic pain;
- Opioid selection, dosage, duration, follow-up, and discontinuation; and
- Assessing risk and addressing harms of opioid use.



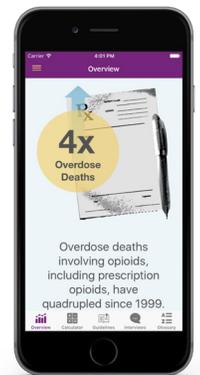
Clinical Implementation Tools

Checklist for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

A checklist of recommended actions when considering long-term opioid therapy.

Mobile App: CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline App

Features a morphine milligram equivalent (MME) calculator, Guideline key points, motivational interviewing techniques, resources, and glossary terms.



Pocket Guide: Tapering Opioids for Chronic Pain

Serves as a quick reference for when and how to taper and important considerations for safe and effective care.

Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention (ASBI) for People who Consume Alcohol and Use Opioids

Alcohol consumption is associated with opioid overdose and misuse. ASBI is a clinical prevention strategy for reducing excessive drinking.

Pharmacists: On the Front Lines

Outlines pharmacists' role in opioid overdose prevention and includes tips, a checklist for communicating with patients, and a list of relevant resources.

Quality Improvement and Care Coordination

A resource for healthcare systems to support care coordination and to integrate the Guideline into clinical workflow through quality improvement measures

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Fact Sheets

Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain: Recommendations

Summarizes the 12 Guideline recommendations and provides specific clinical reminders to make them easier to review, understand, and implement.

Assessing Benefits and Harms

Provides guidance for assessing benefits and harms of opioid therapy and tips on what to do if harms outweigh experienced benefits.

Nonopioid Treatments for Chronic Pain

Provides examples of nonopioid medications and nonpharmacological treatments for chronic pain management.

Urine Drug Testing (UDT)

Covers when to conduct a UDT, what to discuss with patients before ordering this test, an overview of potential results, and the types of tests available.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

Explores PDMPs and their importance to patient safety. It includes registration information and important considerations while checking the PDMP.

Training and Continuing Education

Applying CDC's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids Series

This online training series helps you apply CDC's recommendations in your clinical setting through interactive patient scenarios, videos, knowledge checks, tips, and resources. CE is available.

Clinical Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Webinar Series

Subject matter experts present key emergency preparedness and response opioid topics, followed by meaningful Q&A with participants. Each COCA webinar offers information and guidance for clinicians on prescribing opioids for chronic pain.

Coordinating Clinical and Public Health Responses to Opioid Overdoses Treated in Emergency Departments

Joint Vital Signs Town Hall and COCA Webinar featuring the Surgeon General, Acting CDC Director, CDC Vital Signs MMWR author, and experts from Rhode Island. CE is available.

Videos

When Benefits Outweigh the Risks

Features two patients beginning opioid therapy and walks viewers through a scenario where prescription opioids are prescribed to treat pain, utilizing the principals in the Guideline.

Back on Track

Highlights the risks of opioids and prescribing high dosages, and offers some nonopioid options for chronic pain management.

