The use of opioid drugs by older adults has grown significantly over the past decade and Medicare beneficiaries have among the highest and fastest-growing rates of diagnosed opioid misuse.

- Opioids killed more than 47,000 people (2017, CMS)
- 2.1 million Medicare beneficiaries have an opioid disorder. (DHHS, 2018)

If you or someone you know is misusing opioid drugs, contact Senior Medicare Patrol.

855-613-7080

For additional information on healthcare fraud, visit cahealthadvocates.org

Find additional details on this fraud alert on the reverse side.
What are Opioids?

36% of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid. (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)

» Opioids are derived from opium found in the poppy plant or created synthetically.

» Opioids are a class of drugs that work by binding to specific receptors in the brain, spinal cord, and gastrointestinal tract to diminish the body's perception of pain.

» Opioids can change the way a person experiences pain.

» Opioids can also have an impact on other systems of the body, such as altering mood, slowing breathing, and causing constipation.

» Opioids include medications such as: tramadol, codeine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, morphine, oxycodone, and more.

Remember opioid fraud and abuse occurs when:

» Medicare beneficiaries are over-prescribed medications.

» Pharmacies are involved in drug diversion which is a transfer of any legally prescribed controlled substance from the individual for whom it was prescribed to another person for any illicit use.

» Medicare is billed for medications not prescribed.

» Medicare is billed for medications not received.

If you do come across such a scam, please report it to our California Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) at 855-613-7080