

Opioid Drug Fraud and Abuse

2019



CALIFORNIA SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL WARNING!

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 abusing 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.

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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**