

Managing prescription opioid use in Medicare Part D

ISSUE: Prescription opioids play a large role in managing pain for some Part D enrollees, but there are also significant risks of harm associated with their use.

KEY POINTS: This presentation updates earlier work by the Commission analyzing the extent of prescription opioid use among Part D enrollees. We also present an analysis of claims that shows characteristics of Part D enrollees who experienced adverse drug events associated with opioids. We conclude by describing steps CMS and plan sponsors are taking to monitor prescription opioid use and manage overuse and misuse.

ACTION: Commissioners should provide comments on this research.