

## **Potentially inappropriate opioid use in Medicare Part D**

**ISSUE:** Use of prescription opioids by Medicare beneficiaries has been growing in recent years. Our analysis of the Part D data suggests that some of the opioid use by Medicare beneficiaries may not be clinically appropriate, and in some cases, potentially fraudulent. Inappropriate use of opioids is a significant concern for the Medicare program as it could potentially harm beneficiaries.

**KEY POINTS:** In this presentation, we describe the patterns of opioid use by Part D enrollees, and provide information on measures implemented by CMS, states, and pharmacies to prevent inappropriate use of opioids. Although the paper focuses on the various strategies used to prevent inappropriate uses of opioids, the topics discussed can have broader implications for monitoring inappropriate uses of other medications covered under the Part D program.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should comment on the findings and discuss future directions on the issues raised by this research.

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