

Facilities must appropriately provide opioids to meet CMS' stipulation that they "ensure that pain management is provided to residents who require such services, consistent with professional standards of practice."



Opioid-involved overdose deaths continue to rise. The CDC reported 107,941 overdose deaths in 2021.

Ongoing Support From Consultant Pharmacists

We offer resources and assistance to promote optimal opioid use, including:

Case Consultations: Our pharmacists can advise on a case-by-case basis to ensure appropriate opioid dose, frequency, and treatment duration

Education: Flyers, fact sheets and continuing education programs available for clinicians on opioid management and ways to improve opioid use

Easy Access: All your opioid management needs are in one document



According to the CDC, rates of opioid overdose deaths for adults aged 65 and over have been steadily increasing over the last two decades.



Focused Support for Optimal Opioid Use

Seniors residing in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) demonstrate disproportionately high risk for experiencing pain. As such, the prevention, assessment, and treatment of pain presents a persistent challenge to LTCF staff. PharMerica's Opioid Stewardship Program supports LTCFs in worthwhile efforts to promote appropriate opioid use, optimize pain management approaches, and operate as proper stewards of these medications.

A 2019 study found that nearly 75% of residents had at least one opioid prescription during their LTC stay. The majority, 83%, had not taken opioid medications before LTC admission.



The CDC distinguishes opioids as demonstrating severe risk potential with inappropriate use, and prescribers must balance concerns of misuse, addiction, overdose, and death with opioids' pain-relieving benefits.

Zero and Low-Cost Components of the Program Include:

- Core Elements Checklist for Opioid Stewardship
- Customizable Facility Program Toolkit Available
- Sample Policies and Procedures
- Reporting and Tracking Templates
- Education for Administrators, Healthcare Providers, Residents, and Families
- Opioid and Pain Management Consulting Services by PharMerica's Consultant Pharmacists

