



## **Action Steps for Improving Opioid Practices in Boulder County HealthCare Settings**

### ***Educate Providers on Best Practices***

This would include providing education to primary care providers, as well as specialty providers, such as orthopedic and general surgeons, with training tailored to each specialty and patient population. It would be ideal if physicians worked with their colleagues on this (e.g. ED physicians spoke with other ED physicians). There are resources available from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse and Prevention. We can help to facilitate a speakers' bureau and tailor topics to your health care system.

### ***Identify and Share Model Policies for Health Systems***

This step would include identifying and sharing model internal policies and processes to help providers work with patients experiencing acute and chronic pain, with a focus on non-narcotic therapies. A number of bills recently passed through the state legislature and were signed by the Governor, including [SB18-022](#), Clinical Practice for Opioid Prescribing. This bill, with certain exceptions, restricts the number of opioid pills that a health care practitioner may prescribe for an initial prescription to a seven-day supply and allows each health care practitioner to exercise discretion to include a second fill for a seven-day supply. We will be able to share more information soon about how the bills will be implemented.

### ***Increase Access to Data & Tracking***

A robust data tracking system will ultimately improve the quality of pain management. We are working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to increase your access to provider Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data.

### ***Educate the Public***

This includes educating the public about changes to opioid prescriptions to make them a second-line treatment as part of a comprehensive approach to acute and chronic pain management. We can link you to public education campaigns that you can share, awareness events in which you can participate, and resources you can provide for your patients.

### ***Develop and Share Community Treatment and Recovery Options***

This step include identifying the best means to maintain up-to-date and effective linkages to referral sources for behavioral health, addiction, and medication-assisted treatment for patients experiencing chronic opioid use and/or heroin use. We aim to include state and local resources, including your resources, as appropriate.

### ***Opioid Symposium for Health Care Systems***

We would like to partner with you to host a symposium this fall that highlights innovation within local health care systems, the community, and the Boulder County Opioid Advisory Group (OAG) to highlight your partnership. Ideally, the event would feature local clinical speakers and state or national experts, as well as highlight local innovations.

