

Wisconsin Association of Health Plans

The Voice of Wisconsin's Community-Based Health Plans

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Initiative to Address Opioid Abuse and Addiction in Wisconsin

PREAMBLE

Wisconsin's community-based health plans are committed to helping combat the deadly epidemic of opioid abuse affecting our friends, families, and neighbors, by continuing to work to ensure that patients receive the right care at the right time in the most appropriate setting. Honoring that commitment requires health plans to review, and where appropriate revise, programs and policies to ensure that every member has access to appropriate care, consistent with medical guidelines.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

- **PREVENTION** - Community-based health plans have joined the fight to prevent future opioid abuse by helping providers reduce the amount of opioids prescribed to their members.
- Community-based health plans will work closely with providers and health systems to ensure that health plans are providing appropriate data to clinicians to inform provider prescribing practices.
- Community-based health plans will encourage adoption of pain contracts, as appropriate, where providers and patients are informed and agree that the prescription of opioids carries with it certain responsibilities.
- **TREATMENT** – Community-based health plans are committed to ensuring that every member suffering from opioid abuse has access to medically-appropriate treatment options. Treatment plans are created by following guidelines set by authorities such as the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Health plans approve treatment plans that are based on medical guidelines, recognizing that every individual seeking treatment is unique. Medication-assisted treatment in combination with behavioral therapies, can serve as an important tool in treating addiction. However, overcoming opioid abuse often requires an integrated approach, with health plans working to provide access to medical and mental health services, and partnering with community resources where appropriate, while the patient takes responsibility for arranging necessary social supports.

There is no one-size fits all approach to treating addiction. Wisconsin's community-based health plans are committed to helping prevent future opioid abuse and providing access to medically appropriate treatment options for those suffering from opioid addiction.

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