



Smart Care California

Project Overview

Smart Care California is a public-private partnership working to promote safe, affordable health care in California. According to the Institute of Medicine, 30 cents of every health care dollar is wasted, and overuse or misuse accounts for more than one-fourth of that waste, costing the system more than \$200 billion. While California is a national leader in managed care, our diverse health care systems demonstrate varying levels of quality and affordability; uniting public and private sector stakeholders toward achieving higher quality care at lower cost is a priority for state leaders. Smart Care California was created in 2015 to help drive that process.

Collectively, Smart Care California participants purchase or manage care for more than 16 million Californians — or 40 percent of the state. It is co-chaired by the state's leading health care purchasers: the Department of Health Care Services, which administers Medi-Cal; Covered California, the state's health insurance marketplace; and CalPERS, which manages pension and health benefits for California's public employees, retirees, and their families. The Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) convenes and coordinates the partnership with funding from the California Health Care Foundation.

We currently focus on three areas: opioid overuse; low-risk, first birth c-sections; and low back pain.

Smart Care California Focus on Opioids

Smart Care California aligns multiple stakeholders, with significant emphasis on purchasers and health plans, to take action to reduce opioid overuse within their respective organizations. We promote four core priority goals:

1. PREVENT: Decrease the number of new starts — fewer prescriptions, lower doses, shorter durations
2. MANAGE: Identify patients on risky regimens (high-dose opioids, or opioids and sedatives) and work with them to taper to safer doses
3. TREAT: Streamline access to evidence-based treatment for substance use
4. STOP overdose deaths: Streamline access to naloxone for overdose reversal

To date, Smart Care California has accomplished the following to address the opioid epidemic:

- Convened seven multi-stakeholder workgroup meetings
- Compiled, curated, and disseminated resources for three key audiences – plans, providers, and members
- Identified key opioid metrics from existing sources
- Developed and endorsed a health plan and purchaser checklist, and payer and provider strategies
- Surveyed health plans on their approaches to reduce opioid overuse

About the Integrated Healthcare Association

IHA is a nonprofit, multi-stakeholder leadership group that promotes health care quality improvement, accountability, and affordability for the benefit of all Californians. IHA has over a decade of experience leading regional and statewide performance measurement and incentive programs, and serving as an incubator for pilot programs and demonstration projects.

Contact

For additional information, contact Jennifer Wong, MPH, project manager, at jwong@iha.org. Find resources at <http://www.iha.org/our-work/insights/smart-care-california>.