



## WellCare Health Plans Opioid Commitment Statement

Since 1985 WellCare's Members are our reason for being. We help those eligible for government-sponsored healthcare plans live better, healthier lives.

The abuse of and addiction to prescription and non-prescription opioids is considered by many to be one of the greatest public health threats in the United States over the last two decades. The opioid challenges confronting the nation certainly have a significant impact on WellCare and its members. For example, during 2017, 12.3% of Medicaid deaths and 7.1% of Medicare deaths were opioid-related.

WellCare is proud to join the Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic in a one-of-a-kind public-private partnership committed to sharing knowledge, aligning ongoing initiatives, and advancing collective, multi-sector solutions. As a network organization WellCare is dedicated to reversing national trends in opioid misuse and overdose.

In particular, WellCare commits to developing and disseminating evidence-based strategies in the Action Collaborative's focus area of Opioid prescribing guidelines and evidence standards.

In 2018, WellCare stood up an evidence-based clinical program in all Medicare and Medicaid markets that addresses opioid misuse and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The goals of the program are to improve quality/safety for our members and decrease unnecessary opioid prescribing. The implementation of this program will result in a reduction of overall opioid prescriptions and a reduction in opioid related overdoses by the end of 2021.

As part of WellCare's Opioid Prescriber Strategy, we are focused on Delivery System Transformation to foster change with our outlier prescribers. The strategy is a three pronged approach:

- 1. Identification of opioid outlier prescribers**
- 2. Intervention with providers of continued excessive prescribing patterns**
- 3. Education for all prescribers regarding our Opioid Program**

WellCare Health Plans is committed to reversing the U.S. opioid epidemic and meeting our member's critical needs. We believe our Opioid Program's combined comprehensive strategies and partnership with the Action Collaborative will lead us to reducing overall opioid prescriptions and decreasing opioid related deaths across all Medicaid and Medicare populations.

To learn more about the action collaborative please visit: [www.nam.edu/OpioidCollaborative](http://www.nam.edu/OpioidCollaborative)