About Prescribing Naloxone

1: What are the benefits of naloxone?
   • Naloxone is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression.
   • Naloxone may be administered IV, IM or intranasally.

2: Why prescribe naloxone?
   • Patients are often unaware that even at medically appropriate doses, opioids have significant risks.
   • Patients are often unaware that naloxone is a potentially life-saving agent that reverses respiratory and central nervous system depression.
   • Data suggests that despite statewide expanded access initiatives, naloxone is underutilized.
   • Even if your state doesn't require a formal prescription to access naloxone, patients may be more likely to obtain it if a prescription is provided.

3: Who should receive a prescription for naloxone?
   • Patients prescribed greater than or equal to 50 MME (morphine milligram equivalents) per day.
   • Patients taking opioids at any dose who have one or more of these risk factors:
     • History of prior overdose, misuse of opioids, or IV drug use.
     • On antidepressants or benzodiazepines.
     • Has respiratory conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or obstructive sleep apnea.
     • Drinks alcohol.
     • History of a mental health disorder.
     • Has limited emergency medical care access.

References:
2. CMS analysis of FSS beneficiaries with Part D considered to be “HRM” high risk- 3 or more chronic meds plus chronic opioid for CY 2017. Conrad Quality Insights for more info.
3. MME calculator - https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/health-topics/mme-calculator.page

This material was prepared by Quality Insights, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization for West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Louisiana under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The content presented is not consistent with CMS policy. Publication number: HIC-2012-0219.