**What is the interactive online Medicaid Opioid Mapping Tool?**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released an interactive online mapping tool which shows geographic comparisons at the state level, of de-identified Medicaid opioid prescriptions filled within the United States. This mapping tool allows the user to see both the number and percentage of opioid claims at the state level and better understand how this critical issue impacts communities nationwide.

**What is the population included in the Opioid Mapping Tool?**

The Medicaid Opioid Prescribing Mapping Tool is based on data in the [Medicaid State Drug Utilization Data](). The data characterize the individual prescribing patterns of health providers that participate in Medicaid State Drug Utilization Data.  The data are de-identified to protect beneficiary privacy.

**This data in the Opioid Mapping Tool only represent the physician's Medicaid patients – does this mean the tool presents an incomplete picture of their entire practice?**

Yes. The data reflect Medicaid prescription drug claims prescribed by health care providers. It does not include prescribing for patients on Medicare, those with commercial insurance, or self-pay patients.

As a result, users of this data should recognize that it only presents a portion of a physician's entire practice and that portion can vary significantly across physicians. However, this data does present valuable information on how physicians prescribe within in the Medicaid program.

**Does the Opioid Mapping Tool contain information for beneficiaries in Managed Care?**

Yes. The Opioid Mapping Tool is based on data available in the Medicaid State Drug Utilization Data, which was developed using claims from beneficiaries enrolled in Managed Care Drug Plans and Fee-for-Service plans. The file does not include claims from commercial payers or Medicare.

**Are methadone claims included in the Part D Opioid Mapping tool drug data?**

The data for this tool were derived from the public Medicaid State Drug Utilization Data .  The analyses are based on the products included in the CMS Overutilization Monitoring System, and it does include methadone.

**What does it mean that my state has a higher or lower number/percentage of opioid prescriptions when compared to other states?**

When a state has a higher percentage than another state or the national average, that means the relative proportion of Medicaid opioid prescription claims prescribed in that state is higher, based on prescribers who practice in the state.

**What are you doing to protect beneficiary privacy in the Opioid Mapping Tool?**

CMS is committed to protecting the privacy of Medicaid beneficiaries. The Opioid Mapping Tool is based on data available in the Medicaid State Drug Utilization Data. In order to prevent potential re-identification and protect beneficiary privacy, data lines have been redacted in the Medicaid State Drug Utilization data file that were based on information from 10 or fewer individual claims.

**Are consumers' clinical data subject to privacy and security protections in the Medicaid State Opioid Mapping tool?**

The data used in the Opioid Mapping tool are de-identified to protect beneficiary privacy. Also, there is no beneficiary information contained in the mapping tool or the underlying data set.