What is the OIG Toolkit?
The toolkit¹ provides the steps and complimentary SAS programming code to analyze patients’ opioid levels and prescription drug claims to identify patients who are at risk of opioid misuse or overdose and over-prescribers when applied to prescription drug claims data such as from Medicare Part D.

Why now?
In many places, documenting and analyzing prescription, Medicare, Medicaid and other health data is still performed manually or may be limited by available analysis skills and tools. The methodology developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) for its extensive work on opioids provides a critical foundation on which states, attorneys general and other public and private partners can begin to change the trajectory of the opioid crisis.

Who should be using it?
The toolkit provides important technical information and support to Medicare Part D plan sponsors, private health plans, State Medicaid Fraud Control Units, state prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), researchers and private sector partners.

How does it help?
The toolkit walks public and private researchers and analysts through how to collect prescription drug claims data and merge data for daily morphine equivalent dose (MED) calculation – also called the morphine milligram equivalent. The MED calculation produces a standard value from converted prescription opioids and opioid strengths. It also provides guidance on conducting data quality control checks, investigating patients with specific conditions and pinpointing at-risk patients. The code may be modified to fit the needs of different users and applied to state Medicaid data or a variety of other sources (commercial, Medicaid, EMS, law enforcement, etc.).

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1 OIG, Toolkit Homepage - https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-17-00560.asp
2 OIG, Toolkit: Using Data Analysis to Calculate Opioid Levels and Identify Patients At Risk of Misuse or Overdose, OEI-02-17-00560, June 2018.
Building on the toolkit foundation

A multifaceted approach to combating the opioid crisis includes aggregating and analyzing opioid-related data scattered across numerous government agencies. Prescribers can’t rely on PDMP opioid prescription data alone because it doesn’t paint a full picture. States need the ability to continuously monitor behavior to intervene faster and investigate potential misuse by prescribers, beneficiaries, manufacturers and distributors. It’s time to put the power of pattern recognition, machine learning, anomaly detection and artificial intelligence in the hands of analysts working in a range of disciplines.

Identify early signs of addiction

States can identify patients who have inappropriate amounts or combinations of opioid prescriptions.

Deter drug trafficking

Accelerating the identification of suspicious prescribing and dispensing patterns facilitates increased and more highly targeted interdiction.

Coordinate treatment

Providing patient/drug insights directly to physicians and prescribers allows them to make well-informed decisions about whether to prescribe an opioid at patient contact.


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<th>Treatment</th>
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About SAS

SAS is the leader in analytics. Through innovative software and services, SAS empowers and inspires customers around the world to transform data into intelligence. SAS gives you THE POWER TO KNOW®.