

# Addressing Pain in South Carolina

## Quick Reference #1

### Improving Patient Safety with PDMP Use

Use this check list to assess your patient's safety:

#### 1. Are opioids prescribed for this patient? If yes...

- Ask the patient about alcohol use.
- Patients who consume alcohol with prescribed opioids are at higher risk of accidental overdose.
- If alcohol is consumed with opioids or exceeds recommended limits, add "hazardous alcohol use" to the problem list.

#### 2. Does the daily amount of opioid exceed 90MMEQ? If yes...

- Inform the patient that greater than 90MMEQ daily is associated with increased risk of accidental overdose.
- Add "risk of opioid toxicity" to the problem list.
- Ask the patient about their schedule and dose.
- Consider prescribing naloxone.
- Discuss the possibility of decreasing to a safer dose.
- Coordinate care of the patient if multiple prescribers are involved.

#### 3. Is the patient prescribed both a benzodiazepine and an opioid? If yes...

- Inform the patient the use of benzodiazepines and opioids together is associated with higher risk of accidental overdose.
- Add polypharmacy to the problem list.
- Ask the patient about their schedule and dose for these medications.
- Prescribe Naloxone.
- Discuss the possibility of decreasing or discontinuing the use of one or both medications.
- Coordinate care of the patient if multiple prescribers are involved.

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## OPIOID RISK PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP



BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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