



SAFE STATES

March 15, 2016

Dear Safe States Member,

Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the [Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#).

The Guideline provides twelve recommendations for primary care clinicians about the appropriate prescribing of opioids to improve pain management and patient safety. It will:

- Help clinicians determine if and when to start prescription opioids for chronic pain
- Give guidance about medication selection, dose, and duration, and when and how to reassess progress, and discontinue medication if needed
- Help clinicians and patients work together to assess the benefits and risks of prescription opioid use

CDC has created a [Fact Sheet](#) that you can use to bring attention to this issue and tell your story.

If Safe States can assist you in sharing these messages and next steps with partners and stakeholders, please [let us know](#).

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