

# SAFE PRESCRIBING TOOLKIT

Caring for our patients  
Caring for our community

Teens who take prescription opioids, such as for a sports injury, have a **33% higher risk** of opioid misuse later in life.

5 days of opioid use can lead to dependence.

“We are working to better integrate prescription drug monitoring programs into our practices, increasing patient access to life-saving naloxone, becoming trained to provide buprenorphine in-office for the treatment of opioid use disorder and advocating for evidence-based treatments...We must continue to be strategic in our thinking and evidence-based in our approach.”

– PATRICE HARRIS, MD, MA  
PRESIDENT, AMERICAN MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION

Since 2012, the **Ventura County Rx Abuse and Heroin Workgroup** has been committed to working with local agency and community partners to reduce epidemic-level opioid misuse and fatal overdoses.

The opioid crisis affects us all. Prescribers across the country are experiencing the new normal in healthcare, and are responding to enhanced professional guidelines and evolving standards for patient care. For example, more American physicians than ever are using CURES and other prescription drug monitoring programs (PMDPs) – over 460 million queries in 2018 alone, and more more than triple those of 2016.

Ventura County continues to make great strides in addressing the opioid crisis locally. The Ventura County Opioid Abuse Suppression Taskforce (COAST), funded by a grant from the US Department of Justice, increases data integration and strategic targeting of resources across the county.

## SAFE PRESCRIBING TOOLKIT

The COAST grant allows us to reach out to prescribers like you to share information and materials that assist with patient communications. The items in this toolkit may be copied and shared with your staff, colleagues and patients. They are also available online at [venturacountyresponds.org](http://venturacountyresponds.org). We encourage you to bookmark the website, which features regularly updated resources for prescribers and patients.



Working together, we are making a meaningful difference locally to individuals, to families and to our community.