



## Prescriber Tool

Fact Sheet April 2021

### PROGRAM HISTORY & OVERVIEW

#### Reducing Prescription Drug Costs & Improving Public Health

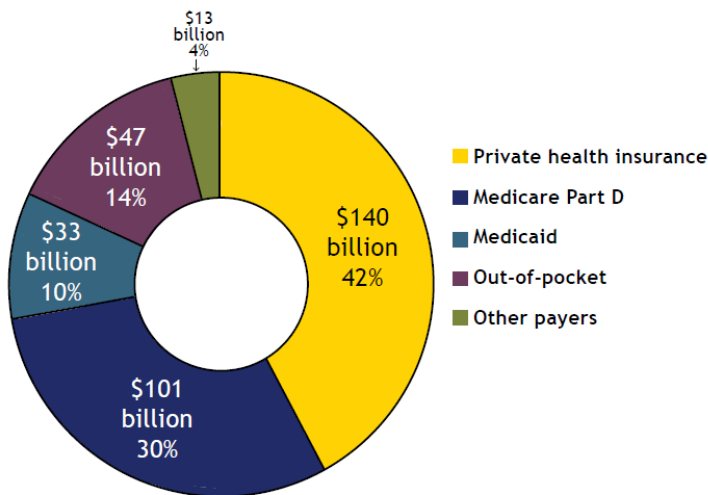
The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) is coordinating the development and implementation of a new tool for use by prescribers statewide. The tool will be embedded in electronic medical record systems to seamlessly incorporate into a prescriber’s workflow. The tool will inform prescribers of the most cost-effective and efficacious covered drugs, if there is risk for addiction and additional resources to address social determinants of health.

### WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: GOALS AND OUTCOME MEASURES

With access to prescribing information, the tool will better enable prescribers to improve patients’ quality of care and health outcomes while reducing prescription drug costs. In turn, this will enable the Department to reward providers with value-based payments for both improving patient health and better controlling costs and trends associated with prescription drugs.

#### All Payer Types Could Benefit from Reduced Drug Expenditures

Figure 1. U.S. Retail Prescription Drug Spending by Payer



Total U.S. Retail Prescription Drug Spending in 2017: \$333 billion  
Total Prescription drug spending accounts for rebates.  
SOURCE: KFF analysis of 2017 data from the National Health Expenditure Accounts.

#### Phased Implementation

##### Phase I - Real-time benefit check and opioid risk metrics:

Prescribers will have access to real-time, patient-specific pharmacy benefit information such as drug coverage policies (e.g., prior authorization required), member cost-sharing and more cost-effective therapeutic alternatives.

The tool will also provide patient-specific opioid risk metrics to help providers make more informed opioid prescribing decisions and reduce the risk of patient addiction.

The Department anticipates Phase I of the Prescriber Tool will be completed in 2021.



**Phase II - Health Improvement Programs:**

In Phase II, the Prescriber Tool will provide prescribers with patient-specific information on statewide health improvement programs to help better address social determinants of health. The goal is to enable providers to prescribe a program, not just a medication. These programs might include:

- Tobacco cessation
- Diabetes management programs
- Maternity support
- Public benefits like WIC and SNAP
- Recreation and fitness programs
- Peer support groups

**Coming in 2021**

**The Opioid Module - Now Operational**

The Department has contracted with vendor OpiSafe to provide an opioid module for the Prescriber Tool. The opioid module provides prescribers with patient-specific opioid risk metrics and medication history to help prevent opioid misuse and abuse. Providers will be able to access this information for all their patients, not just Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid program) members. Each prescriber will need an individual user license to access this module. For more information on how to acquire a license, please visit [Opisafe.com](http://Opisafe.com).

**Affordability Module - Coming Spring 2021**

The affordability module will provide prescribing clinicians patient-specific pharmacy benefit information including: patient copays, drug prices, covered therapeutic equivalent drugs and utilization management policies, e.g. prior authorization requirements. Clinicians will get helpful information when determining the most cost-effective and efficacious drugs to prescribe covered by a patient’s health plan.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

PARTICIPATE	EDUCATE
To find more on Affordability tools including community partnerships, best practices, and more visit the Affordability website at <a href="http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/affordability">www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/affordability</a> .	See how this fits into a comprehensive strategy to reduce the cost of prescription drugs in the report “ <a href="#">Reducing Prescription Drug Costs in Colorado, 2nd, ed.</a> ” Visit the Prescriber Tool website at <a href="http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/prescriber-tool-project">www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/prescriber-tool-project</a> .

**For more information contact:**  
**[Thomas Leahey](#)**

