

# Mass General Brigham Commitment Statement on Countering the US Opioid Epidemic

## NAM Action Collaborative July 2020

Mass General Brigham is committed to combating the US Opioid Epidemic. This role extends beyond the traditional boundaries of health care to include ensuring the wellness of individuals and their families wrought by devastating effects of the opioid epidemic, while meeting critical social needs.

The Opioid Steering Committee was established in 2016, in response to the nationwide opioid epidemic and state legislative changes. The Committee focuses on setting strategy and in developing metrics, tools, and reports. To date, it has facilitated the development of electronic health record (EHR) tools to support implementation of state regulations, promoted best opioid practices, and led the development of reporting tools. The multidisciplinary Committee is comprised of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and electronic health record personnel representing the entire enterprise. As of 2019, the Committee expanded its scope to address prevention and support programming and best practices for all substance use disorders.

The goals of the Committee cover three general areas:

1. Prevention of substance-related harm
  - a. Prescribe controlled substances judiciously
  - b. Address risk factors for and detection of substance-related harm
2. Treatment of substance use disorder (SUD)
  - a. Pro

### Opioid Prescribing Guidelines and Evidence-Based Standards

The Committee shepherded opioid best practice implementation across the system, establishing a set of 28 system wide opioid use best practices to guide quality improvement. The Committee developed EHR tools, including opioid documentation forms, best practice alerts or alternative alerts, and order sets to facilitate adherence to state law as well as best practices. The Committee also facilitated the integration of the state prescription drug monitoring program (MassPAT) into Epic so that providers can access the database in a single click.

### Research Data and Metric Needs

Mass General Brigham measures opioid prescribing and use patterns system-wide and, through the work of the Substance Use Steering Committee, developed and validated a set of 23 opioid metrics that span ambulatory, hospital, and emergency department settings. System-wide efforts to assess substance use disorders across patient populations and care settings are supported by an automated opioid prescribing reporting tool and chronic opioid registry. The tools allow provider-, practice-, site-, and Partners-level reports to be generated which track instances of opioid prescribing and allow practices to run reports on their own high-risk opioid prescribed patients .

#### Health Professional Education and Training

Mass General Brigham is committed to educating healthcare providers on appropriate use of opioids. We developed an online educational module (with continuing medical education credit available) on State requirements for opioid prescribing which provides an overview of tools embedded within our electronic health record system. In addition, we provide standardized opioid education training for medical residents across the system. The Committee also continues to support initiatives for healthcare providers around language, stigma, and screening.

#### Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services

Mass General Brigham continuously provides support for patients with substance use issues. We provide evidence-based patient-level care within our own hospitals while engaging local and state resources. The Committee developed four standardized opioid medication management agreements and opioid educational

