

## ***How to Complete the Practice Self-Assessment Tool for Opioid Use in Older Adults***

The *Practice Self-Assessment Tool for Opioid Use in Older Adults (Self-Assessment tool)* is for primary care practices that want to improve their clinical management of older adult patients with chronic pain who use opioid medications. AHRQ developed an *Opioid Use in Older Adults Compendium (Compendium)* to assist primary care practices with their improvement of opioid management in older adults. The *Compendium* is a change package of activities, resources, and tools. The completion of the *Self-Assessment* tool is an important step in using the *Compendium*. It supports your team in examining your primary care practice's key work areas that align with the *Compendium* high-leverage change (HLC) areas.

These HLC areas were developed through an environmental scan of the topic, including interviews with exemplary primary care practices. Seven operational and care delivery areas were identified for improving how organizations manage opioid medications and chronic pain in older adults. The seven HLC change areas for improvement in the *Self-Assessment* align with the HLC areas in the *Compendium*. They are:

1. Opioid Data
2. Processes and Workflows
3. Risk Assessment
4. Opioid Use Disorder Assessment and Treatment
5. Patient Engagement
6. Nonpharmacologic Pain Management
7. Medication Management

These HLC areas are offered as pathways your team can use to improve your patient care and prevent opioid misuse in your patients and, specifically, older adult patients. Once you identify areas for improvement, you can use the *Compendium* to aid you in your improvement work.

### **Directions for using the *Self-Assessment* tool to identify areas for improvement:**

- ✓ It is best completed during a group discussion with all staff involved in this work. These people might include clinicians, medical assistants, nurses, care coordinators, data managers, social workers, behavioral health providers, the clinic manager, and pharmacists.
- ✓ Schedule a group meeting with all of them to discuss and rate each question.
- ✓ In the meeting, ask participants to speak openly about each question and determine the ratings by consensus.
- ✓ It is organized into seven HLC areas related to providing care for your older adult patients who use opioids.

## High-Leverage Change Area: Opioid Data

	1	2	3	4
<b>1. Use of a data system to pro-actively track &amp; monitor older adult patients prescribed long-term opioids to ensure their safety...</b>	...has not been explored or is not possible with existing data systems.			...i bu req pla

- ✓ Each HLC area has strategies for improvement. These are in bold font in the first column of the table.

## High-Leverage Change Area: Opioid Data

	1	2	3
<b>1. Use of a data system to pro-actively track &amp; monitor older adult patients prescribed long-term opioids to ensure their safety...</b>	...has not been explored or is not possible with existing data systems.		
	1	2	3
<b>2. Care gap reports for older adults on long-term opioid therapy...</b>	...are not available.		

- ✓ Each strategy has four statement answers in the boxes to the right of it. The statements allow you to rate your organization's current level of activity for each improvement option. From left to right they go from a scale of not doing this right now (lower score) to being fully operational (higher score).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>1. Use of a data system to pro-actively track &amp; monitor older adult patients prescribed long-term opioids to ensure their safety...</b>	...has not been explored or is not possible with existing data systems.	...is technically possible, but systems to get useful reports are not yet in place.	...is possible and systems are in place to produce basic reports on a regular basis.	...is possible, systems are in place, and reports are produced that allow for tracking of patient care and monitoring of clinician prescri								

- ✓ Review each strategy and circle ONE of the four statement answer boxes that best reflects your organization’s current status.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Use of a data system to pro-actively track & monitor older adult patients prescribed long-term opioids to ensure their safety...	...has not been explored or is not possible with existing data systems.			...is technically possible, but systems to get useful reports are not yet in place.			...is possible and systems are in place to produce basic reports on a regular basis.			...is possible, systems are in place, and reports are produced that allow for tracking of patient care and monitoring of clinician practices.		

- ✓ There are three number options for each answer statement box to allow you to score how far along you are.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Use of a data system to pro-actively track & monitor older adult patients prescribed long-term opioids to ensure their safety...	...has not been explored or is not possible with existing data systems.			...is technically possible, but systems to get useful reports are not yet in place.			...is possible and systems are in place to produce basic reports on a regular basis.			...is possible, systems are in place, and reports are produced that allow for tracking of patient care and monitoring of clinician practices.		

- ✓ Circle the number score in that statement answer box that best represents how far along your practice is in this. The higher the number, the further along you are in that domain. In this example below, a “4” is selected because the practice has done very little with their data system.

4	5	6
...is technically possible, but systems to get useful reports are not yet in place.		

- ✓ Sum the scores for each HLC area as you complete it.
- ✓ Complete the entire tool.
- ✓ Once it’s completed, review the tool to identify the areas that have low scores. These indicate areas for potential improvement. Discuss these as a team to identify which strategies to work on, and which have priority.
- ✓ Then, use the *Compendium* to find change activities, resources, and tools to support your improvement efforts. The *Compendium* corresponds to the *Self-Assessment* tool.

