

## 2023 Opioid Care Honor Roll Methodology:

Recognizing California hospitals addressing the opioid epidemic

### Methodology:

Between January and March 2023, Cal Hospital Compare (CHC) invited all 348 California adult, acute care hospitals to voluntarily submit their *Opioid Management Hospital Self-Assessment* results to be considered for the 2023 Opioid Care Honor Roll. The *Opioid Management Hospital Self-Assessment* uses 8 questions to measure opioid management across the following four domains of care: 1) safe & effective opioid use, 2) identifying and managing patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), 3) overdose prevention, and 4) applying cross-cutting opioid management best practices.

Participating hospitals could achieve up to 40 points across 8 questions, with 2 extra credit opportunities for a grand total of 42 possible points. Hospitals who provide patients and families one or more of the following harm reduction services: access to low cost or no cost fentanyl test strips and safe injection kits, and information on how to properly store and dispose of opioid medications can earn one extra credit point. An additional extra credit point can be earned if hospitals "Hon-roll" or recommend another hospital to complete the assessment that has not previously participated in the Opioid Care Honor Roll program. Using the *Opioid Management Hospital Self-Assessment* CHC's Board of Directors identified a relevant threshold to identify honor roll hospitals using a combination of baseline data from the 2019 pilot year, as well as 2020-2021 honor roll results. In addition, hospitals must score at least one point in each domain to be eligible for the honor roll. The 2023 Opioid Care Honor roll uses four approaches to identify honor roll hospitals.

Superior Performance: The hospital scores at least 34 points out of 42 points ( $\geq 75^{\text{th}}$  percentile) and scores at least one point in each of the 4 domains of care.

Excellent Progress: The hospital scores between 26 and 33 points out of 32 points ( $\geq 50^{\text{th}}$  percentile and  $\leq 74^{\text{th}}$  percentile) and scores at least one point in each of the 4 domains of care.

Most Improved: The hospital scores  $\geq 5$  points on their 2023 results compared to the previous year's results.

Sustained: The hospital achieves Superior Performance for a second consecutive year.

### Results:

Among the 110 participating hospitals, 75 received additional recognition on the 2023 Opioid Care Honor Roll. More specifically, 31 hospitals demonstrated "Sustained Improvement," 41 hospitals were acknowledged for achieving "Superior Performance," and 35 hospitals were recognized for making "Excellent Progress." Additionally, 31 hospitals were identified as the "Most Improved." To ensure accuracy and validate the overall trend of high performance, the resulting list underwent a comprehensive review and approval process by the Cal Hospital Compare Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors.

## Conclusion:

As the aftermath of the COVID pandemic continues to pose challenges to hospitals, CHC acknowledges that addressing the opioid epidemic is a dedicated and collaborative effort and appreciate their ongoing commitment to tackling opioid stewardship in their communities.

All 110 hospitals participating in the 2023 Opioid Care Honor Roll program are deeply committed to providing appropriate opioid care and treatment for those with OUD in their communities. Participation in this year's Opioid Care Honor Roll is a signal to California's healthcare community that these hospitals are actively accelerating and strengthening their opioid stewardship programs, regardless of their honor roll designation.

Hospitals achieving 'Superior Performance' have implemented advanced, innovative opioid stewardship strategies across multiple service lines, consistently achieving the highest level of performance across the four domains of care as measured by the *Opioid Management Hospital Self-Assessment*. In addition, these hospitals are actively measuring and monitoring performance for the purpose of continued quality improvement.

Hospitals achieving 'Excellent Progress' have taken steps to spread and scale appropriate opioid prescribing guidelines, OUD treatment, overdose prevention strategies, and address stigma across one or more service lines that reduce the use and risk of opioids for patients who visit emergency rooms, new patients with pain, and patients being discharged to reduce the likelihood of chronic use. These hospitals consistently achieve a Level 2 or 3 across the four domains of care as measured by the *Opioid Management Hospital-Self Assessment*.

Furthermore, hospitals that received a "Sustained" notation have achieved a status of superior performance for two consecutive years. These hospitals have consistently implemented advanced and innovative opioid stewardship strategies across multiple service lines. They have demonstrated the highest level of performance across the four domains of care, as measured by the Opioid Management Hospital Self-Assessment. Moreover, these hospitals actively measure and monitor their performance to ensure continuous quality improvement.

On the other hand, hospitals with a "Most Improved" notation have shown remarkable progress by increasing their score by five or more points from the previous year. These hospitals have implemented effective measures to spread and scale appropriate opioid prescribing guidelines, expand access to OUD treatment, deploy overdose prevention strategies, and address stigma across one or more service lines. Their efforts aim to reduce the use and associated risks of opioids for patients visiting emergency rooms, new patients with pain, and patients being discharged, thereby decreasing the likelihood of chronic opioid use.