

Impact of the Opioid Safety Initiative on opioid-related prescribing in veterans.

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Lin LA, Bohnert ASB, Kerns RD, et al. Impact of the Opioid Safety Initiative on opioid-related prescribing in veterans. *Pain*. 2017;158(5):833-839. doi:10.1097/j.pain.0000000000000837.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/impact-opioid-safety-initiative-opioid-related-prescribing-veterans>

[Opioids](#) are known to be high-risk medications, and [unsafe prescribing](#) practices are common. This intervention at Veterans Affairs medical centers used an electronic dashboard to provide feedback to clinicians about high-risk opioid prescribing. Local champions implemented the dashboard tool and spearheaded safer opioid prescribing. Using an interrupted time series analysis, researchers determined that the intervention reduced two unsafe prescribing [practices](#): high-dose opioid prescriptions and concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines. The authors suggest that this type of large-scale intervention could be applied in other health care systems to enhance [opioid safety](#). A recent [Annual Perspective](#) discussed the extent of harm associated with opioid prescribing and described promising practices to foster safer opioid use.