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## Potential CER Questions for Prevention of Opioid Misuse Meeting

**Overall Comparative Research Question:** *What is the comparative effectiveness of alternative strategies for decreasing the initiation of opioids for managing chronic noncancer pain in primary care while improving patient outcomes (e.g., functioning, quality of life, reducing pain) and reducing patient harms (e.g., opioid misuse, abuse, overdose)?*

### [Physician/Patient-level Strategies](#)

What is the comparative effectiveness of various primary care physician and patient communication and dissemination strategies to promote guideline concordant care for managing patients with chronic noncancer pain who are new, or repeat users of opioids on reducing rates of provider initiation of opioids for chronic pain and improving patient outcomes?

### [Comprehensive system-level opioid and pain management strategies](#)

What is the comparative effectiveness of health system opioid strategies that include elements of prescription monitoring and physician feedback combined with expanding access to alternative methods for pain management compared with usual care (voluntary programs on reducing rates of provider initiation of opioids) for patients with chronic, non-cancer pain who are new, or repeat users of opioids in primary care on reducing rates of provider initiation of opioids for chronic pain and improving patient outcomes?

### [Payer strategies](#)

For patients with chronic non-cancer pain who are new, or repeat users of opioids, what is the comparative effectiveness of insurer-based opioid strategies that include formulary limitations on opioid use, elements of prescription monitoring and physician feedback combined with better coverage of alternative methods for pain management, compared with usual care (e.g., voluntary programs on reducing rates of provider initiation for pain management) on reducing rates of provider initiation of opioids in primary care for chronic pain and improving patient outcomes?

## Initial Considerations for a PICOTS Framework

In describing a good comparative effectiveness research question, think about the target population, well specified interventions and comparators, the outcomes of interest, the timeframe for the duration of the study, and the setting for the study. This is known as the PICOTS framework (Population, Interventions, Comparators, Timing, and Setting). Below are some consideration of the study elements to consider in advance of the meeting.

### Population

- Patients with chronic noncancer pain, not in palliative care or at end of life;
- New or repeat users of opioids

### Interventions and Comparators

What evidence-based strategies change provider prescribing behavior and improve patient outcomes? These strategies are likely to be multi-modal to target both providers as well as patients.

What strategies are in wide spread use that might benefit from more robust comparative effectiveness research?

### Setting of Care

Primary care practices

### Duration of Study

What is an appropriate study duration?

### Outcomes

These are likely to include:

- Reduced rates of provider initiation of opioids
- Quality of life
- Functional outcomes
- Psychopathology
- Pain
- Shared-decision making (patient-reported, provider-reported)
- Patient satisfaction with decision process