Editor's Note

The year 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy*. To commemorate this milestone, we are publishing a series of articles that document the changes to the journal and profession over the past 2 and a half decades. Each month we reprint an original article from a previous year, dating back to 1995. The reprinted articles feature topics of significance in our industry. Each reprinted article is accompanied by a contemporary reflection that will consider the historical significance of the topic, as well as the current and future state.

Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH
Editor-in-Chief

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION

Managed Care Pharmacy Research on Inappropriate Opioid Use Interventions

LT Lauren Hertzog, PharmD; Carrie McAdam-Marx, MSCI, PhD, RPh; and Laura E. Happe, PharmD, MPH

This month's vintage rerun article, "Direct Costs of Opioid Abuse in an Insured Population in the United States," by White et al. quantified the effect of diagnosed opioid use disorder in a commercially insured population.¹ The study was among the first to measure the costs of diagnosed opioid use disorder, revealing an 8 times higher per-member per-month cost compared with people without opioid use disorder, driven by disproportionately high hospitalization costs. These findings likely piqued the interest of some payers, but it was ahead of its time. White et al.'s article was published in 2005—11 years after Oxycontin was launched but 6 years before the height of opioid prescriptions in 2011.²

Reflecting on this early publication and what we know today about the history of the opioid epidemic, we focused this commentary on what managed care pharmacy has done to curb inappropriate opioid use over the past 15 years. First, we

Lauren Hertzog

Carrie McAdam-Marx

Laura E. Happe

describe the studies of managed care programs related to opioids published in the *Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy* (JMCP), then we discuss the work of AMCP's Addiction Treatment Advisory Group. While these components provide a

view into the efforts of managed care pharmacy, this should not be interpreted as comprehensive, since unpublished programs and studies published in other journals are not covered.

Abbreviated Systematic Literature Review

We conducted a systematic, yet limited, literature review to identify studies of opioid programs in managed care. Our search was confined to articles published in JMCP between 2005 and 2020. Using the search terms "opioid," "opiate," "medication-assisted treatment," "naloxone," "substance use disorder," and "pain management," we identified 11 studies of opioid programs in managed care.

Prescriber Outreach

The most common opioid program studied was prescriber outreach. First, Midwest Health Plan mailed letters to prescribers

J Manag Care Spec Pharm. 2020;26(10):1199-202

Copyright © 2020, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. All rights reserved.