THE OPIOID CRISIS
IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND COSTS

Professional charges and allowed amounts for services for patients diagnosed with opioid abuse or dependence rose more than 1,000 percent from 2011 to 2015.

In the period 2011-2014, emergency department codes were the two codes with highest aggregate charges associated with opioid abuse diagnoses, but were not among the top five codes associated with opioid dependence diagnoses.

An allowed amount is the maximum amount an insurer will pay for a covered health service.

In 2015, total annual per-patient charges and allowed amounts for services for patients with opioid abuse or dependence diagnoses were more than 500 percent higher than per-patient charges and allowed amounts based on all patients’ charges.

Source: FAIR Health’s NPIC® database of more than 21 billion privately billed medical and dental healthcare claims from more than 60 contributors nationwide. Copyright 2016, FAIR Health, Inc. All rights reserved.

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