OPIOIDS AND THE WORKPLACE

MORE THAN 53,000 U.S. OPIOID DEATHS occurred in 2016, a 200% increase since 2000.1

OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS have been linked to higher workers’ compensation cost claims, more lost time from the workplace, and greater duration of paid short-term disability.3

IN THE U.S., nonmedical use of prescription opioids cost employers $42 billion attributable to lost productivity.5

THE EFFECTS OF OPIOIDS may include sedation, reduced attention, short term memory, reaction time, and coordination; affecting safety sensitive functions such as driving, equipment operation, critical monitoring, and judgement.8

EMPLOYER SUPPORTED AND MONITORED TREATMENT yields better sustained recovery rates.10

THE U.S. CONSUMES at least 75% of the world’s opioid prescription drugs.2

WORKPLACE INSURERS spend an estimated $1.4 billion annually on opioids.4

OVER 69% of all current illegal drug users work.6

WORKERS WHO RECEIVED HIGH DOSES of opioid painkillers to treat injuries like back strain stayed out of work three times longer than those with similar injuries who took lower doses.7

OPIOIDS AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE affects the workplace through increased health care expenses, and absenteeism; reductions in productivity and performance; additional workers’ compensation and disability claims; and safety concerns.9

National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance

8 Stewart-Patterson, C. “Can My Patient Safely Drive on Long-Term Daily Opioid Medication?” This Changed My Practice (UBC CPDI). The University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine, 25 Nov. 2014, thischangedmypractice.com/drive-on-opioid-medication/