

The Impact of Opioid Abuse in the workplace.

work in the Maritime Industry.

Members are dockworkers, who unload cargo ships (containers) who work with heavy types of equipment.

I have been reading on this issue. Please see below.

What Are Opioids?

- Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, and many others.
- When used correctly under a health care provider's direction, prescription pain medicines are helpful. However, misusing prescription opioids risks dependence and addiction.
- **Opioids** are a class of drugs that include both legal (available by prescription) and illegal drugs. They pose both a health and safety risk in the workplace. These prescription medications are **typically** highly addictive drugs even when taken as prescribed and have the potential to increase the risk of workplace accidents, errors, and injuries. The important role that organizations have in promoting the health and safety in the workplace
- **Common drugs in the opioid class include:** Codeine, Morphine, Hydrocodone, Hydromorphone, Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, Methadone, and Fentanyl.
- The coverage of prescription medication is an essential part of an employee healthcare benefits. When used wisely and correctly, prescription medications can contribute to favorable treatment outcomes and quality of life. However, a disturbing movement has been emerging in the workplace, and it is driven by the use and abuse of opioid painkillers – now the most widely prescribed pain relievers and most highly abused prescription drug. These medications are powerful, highly addictive drugs that have the potential to cause impairment, increase the risk of workplace incidents, errors and injury even when taken as prescribed.

Can you note how many Americans die each year from opioid abuse.

According to: <https://www.cbp.gov/frontline/fighting-opioid-scourge> In 2016, more than 42,000 people in the U.S. died from opioid overdoses – more than any other year on record, according the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The toll continues to rise today, claiming, on average, the lives of 91 Americans every single day.

According to <https://www.corporatewellnessmagazine.com/article/proactive-ways-employers-can-address-opioid-crisis-workplace> Opioid prescriptions - and access to them - are multiplying at an astounding rate. More than 240 million prescriptions were written for opioids in one year, according to a [study](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This is more than enough to give every American adult their own bottle of pills. This startling statistic raises a simple question: with more than 240 million prescription opioids in circulation, what happens to unused or expired prescription drugs?

I go these examples form: <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/opioids-employees-and-accommodations-employer-s-primer-confronting-crisis>

Under my organization, we have the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program, for all our members across the board. We have over 74,000 lives.



SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT PROGRAM

MILA has developed a 12-month program to encourage individuals struggling with addiction to get quality treatment and achieve a successful recovery. This program is available to all MILA members, spouses and dependents, as long as they are enrolled and eligible for the MILA medical plan administered by Cigna. This program includes:

- › No out-of-pocket costs
- › 30 days of inpatient care, including medical detoxification as needed
- › Initial screening by phone to assess a patient's need for services
- › Medical and psychotherapy services are available onsite, provided by licensed or credentialed professionals as needed (Includes group and individual counseling)
- › Participation in recovery support activities, recreation and 12-step meetings while in treatment
- › Family members are invited to participate in in-person recovery activities at their own cost. For those unable to travel to the treatment location, use of phone conference or online family sessions can be arranged
- › All meals, bedding and supplies necessary during the 30-day stay, not including personal hygiene products and clothing.
- › Discharge planning, including coordination of additional treatment services in home community
- › 11 months of continued care and monitoring
- › Pilot program benefits are limited to two admissions to the program per lifetime

Substance use disorder treatment program

Program benefits*	Plan pays	You pay
Inpatient stay – 30 days	100%	0%
Extended treatment – If needed	100%	0%
Successful completion – 12-month follow-up care	100%	0%
Travel to treatment		
• First admission – you and support person	100%	0%
• Second admission – patient only		

* See program brochure or call Cigna for additional information. Individual treatment may vary depending on need.

Recovery is possible.

Under your MILA benefits, there are NEW Substance Use Disorder treatment benefits available to you and your dependents as of July 1, 2019.

How can I get started?

Step 1: Call the MILA dedicated customer service phone number on the back of your Cigna ID card – or **800.794.7882**

Step 2: Ask about the MILA Substance Use Treatment Pilot Program

Addiction can bring chaos and conflict. Recovery offers peace and an opportunity for individuals to return to a productive life, and rebuild relationships with family and friends.

thanks

