

Reducing the Risk of Opioid Overuse and Misuse



Drug overdoses impact families, communities, workplaces, and the economy. Together, we can bring awareness, resources, and expertise to better coordinate efforts to prevent opioid overdoses and deaths. Pharmacotherapy, the treatment of a disorder with medication, has been identified as a critical part of treatment for individuals challenged with opioid use disorder (OUD).¹ Individuals who engage in treatment are less likely to exhibit withdrawal or craving symptoms and use illicit opioids and are more likely to remain in treatment and engage in mental health therapy.²

Provider Tips

- ▶ Use the state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database prior to initiating opioid therapy and periodically, ranging from every prescription to every three months.
- ▶ Only prescribe opioids when medically necessary, in the lowest effective dose, for the shortest duration necessary.
- ▶ Follow established guidelines regarding co-prescribing of naloxone to patients at risk of overdose.
- ▶ Educate patients on opioid safety and risk associated with long-term use and use of multiple opioids from different providers.
- ▶ Identify alternatives to opioids for pain management: NSAIDs, physical therapy, acupuncture, massage therapy, and corticosteroids when clinically appropriate.
- ▶ Encourage coordination of care between physical and behavioral health providers, including transitions in care.
- ▶ Inform patients with an OUD of the risks and benefits of pharmacotherapy treatment.
- ▶ Offer mutual help like peer recovery support, harm reduction, 12-step fellowships (AA, NA, etc.)
- ▶ Educate patients and caregivers about local naloxone access and good Samaritan laws.
- ▶ Provide timely submission of claims with correct medication name, dosage, frequency, and days covered.

Measures

- ▶ Risk of Continued Opioid Use (COU)
- ▶ Use of Opioids at High Dosage (HDO)
- ▶ Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder (POD)
- ▶ Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers (UOP)

Additional Support

- ▶ National Institute of Drug Abuse: www.drugabuse.gov
- ▶ SAMHSA Find Help & Treatment: 1-800-662-4357 · www.samhsa.gov
- ▶ The American Society of Addiction Medicine: www.asam.org
- ▶ Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS): www.pcसनow.org

Sources:

1. Understanding the Opioid Overdose Epidemic. <https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/epidemic.html>
2. NIDA. (2016). Effective treatments for opioid addiction. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction-0>