# Chronic Pain Management in an Opioidphobic Society

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### **Topics for Discussion**

- · What is Pain?
- Background/Significance of Pain in America.
- · Opioid Epidemic
- Federal legislation /guidelines for the use of opioids.
- · Treatment with Opioids/ Pharmacology
- Treatment Agreements/compliance Monitoring

### What is Pain?

- International Association for the Study of Pain Definition: An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage
- Margo McCaffery's Definition: "Pain is whatever the experiencing person says it is, existing whenever the experiencing person says it does".

### TYPES OF PAIN

Duration	Cause	Location
Acute	Nociceptive	Somatic
Chronic	Neuropathic	Visceral

### Duration

# Acute pain

- Relatively brief duration
- Etiology known
- Pain proportionate to damage
- 1 1
- − ~ Transient objective signs
- Anxiety, anger, fear common

# Chronic pain

- Longer duration
- T.: 1 1
- -Etiology  $\sim$  unknown
- − Pain ~disproportionate
- Often no objective sign
- Depression is common

# **Background and Significance**

- Chronic pain is one of the most common presenting medical problems among adults.
- Approximately 50 million adults in the US have Chronic Pain.
- 19 million adults experience high impact chronic pain
- Women, older adults, currently unemployed but were previously working, adults living in poverty, adults living in rural settings, and adults on public insurance had a higher prevalence of chronic pain.

## Background & Significance Cont.

- According to the Institute of Medicine Report on Relieving Pain in America 2011:
  - \$560 to 635 billion per year in healthcare costs an lost productivity.
  - Chronic pain will continue to rise as a result of: age, obesity, advances in medicine, poor management of surgical pain, recognition of the disease.

### Consequences of Unrelieved Pain

- > Physical stress, emotional distress, & suffering
- Insomnia
- Immobility & de-conditioning
- > Impaired hormonal & immune function
- > Atelectasis, hypoxia, & increase cardiac workload
- > Increases morbidity and mortality
- Sensitization & neuroplasticity

# **Consequences Continued**

- Impact of pain on activities (meaningful, pleasurable)
- · Relationships with family members / friends
- Abusive relationships?
- · Assistance given / received from others
- · Use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco
- · Talk with patient and S.O.'s
- · Self awareness re: therapeutic relationship

### **Opioid Epidemic**

- Mid 1990's: American Pain Society classifies pain as the 5<sup>th</sup> vital sign
- October 31, 2000, the 106th U.S. Congress passed H.R. 3244; title VI, Sec. 1603 established the "Decade of Pain Control and Research.
- 2001: Joint Commission introduced standard to improve treatment of pain, including use of opioids.
- Opioid RX nearly tripled from 1991 (76 million) to 2011 (219 million).

# **Opioid Epidemic**

- From 1999-2017 400,000 Americans died of a opioid related drug overdose (RX and Illicit).
- 68 percent of the 70,000 plus overdoses in 2017 involved the use of an opioid.
- 2017 death rate from an opioid overdose is 6x higher than it was in 1999.
- On average, 130 Americans die of an opioid overdose on a daily basis.



### **Opioid Guidelines**

- CDC Guidelines for Primary Care Providers prescribing opioids for non-malignant pain.
- 1. when to initiate/continue opioid therapy for chronic pain management
- 2. Opioid type, dosage, duration of use, frequency of visits, and discontinuation.
- · 3. Risk /Harms assessment of opioid use

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm

### **CDC Guidelines Continued**

- 1. Nonpharmacologic therapy and nonopioid pharmacologic therapy are preferred. Clinicians should consider opioid therapy only if expected benefits for both pain and function are anticipated to outweigh risks to the patient. If opioids are used, they should be combined with nonpharmacologic therapy and nonopioid pharmacologic therapy, as appropriate
- 2. Before starting opioid therapy for chronic pain, clinicians should establish treatment goals with all patients, including realistic goals for pain and function, and should consider how opioid therapy will be discontinued if benefits do not outweepir frisks. Clinicians should continue opioid therapy only if there is clinically meaningful improvement in pain and function that outwelghs risks to patient safety.
- 3. Before starting and periodically during opioid therapy, clinicians should discuss with patients known risks and realistic benefits of opioid therapy and patient and clinician responsibilities for managing therapy.

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### CDC Guidelines Continued:

- 4. When starting opioid therapy for chronic pain, clinicians should prescribe immediate release opioids instead of extended-release/long-acting (ER/LA) opioids
- 5. When opioids are started, clinicians should prescribe the lowest effective dosage.
  Clinicians should use caution when prescribing opioids at any dosage, should carefully
  reassess evidence of individual benefits and risks when considering increasing dosage to ≥50
  morphine milligram equivalents (MME)/day, and should avoid increasing dosage to ≥90
  MME/day or carefully justify a decision to titrate dosage to ≥90 MME/day.
- 6. Long-term opioid use often begins with treatment of acute pain. When opioids are used
  for acute pain, clinicians should prescribe the lowest effective dose of immediate-release
  opioids and should prescribe no greater quantity than needed for the expected duration of
  pain severe enough to require opioids. Three days or less will often be sufficient; more than
  seven days will rarely be needed

### CDC Guidelines Continued:

- 7. Clinicians should evaluate benefits and harms with patients within 1 to 4 weeks of starting
  poiloid therapy for chronic pain or of dose escalation. Clinicians should evaluate benefits and
  harms of continued therapy with patients every 3 months or more frequently. If benefits do
  not outweigh harms of continued opioid therapy, clinicians should optimize other therapies
  and work with patients to laper opioids to lower dosage or to taper and discontinue opioids
- 8. Before starting and periodically during continuation of opioid therapy, clinicians should
  evaluate risk factors for opioid-related harms. Clinicians should incorporate into the
  management plan strategies to mitigate risk, including considering offering naloxone when
  factors that increase risk for opioid overdose, such as history of overdose, history of
  substance use disorder, higher opioid dosages (250 MME/day), or concurrent benzodiazepine
  use, are present

### CDC Guidelines Continued:

- 9. Clinicians should review the patient's history of controlled substance prescriptions using
  state prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) data to determine whether the patient is
  receiving opioid dosages or dangerous combinations that put him or her at high risk for
  overdose. Clinicians should review PDMP data when starting opioid therapy for chronic pain
  and periodically during opioid therapy for chronic pain, ranging from every prescription to
- 10. When prescribing opioids for chronic pain, clinicians should use urine drug testing before starting opioid therapy and consider urine drug testing at least annually to assess for prescribed medications as well as other controlled prescription drugs and illicit drugs
- 11. Clinicians should avoid prescribing opioid pain medication and benzodiazepines concurrently whenever possible.
- 12. Clinicians should offer or arrange evidence-based treatment (usually medication-assisted treatment with buprenorphine or methadone in combination with behavioral therapies) for patients with opioid use disorder

#### **General Opioid Prescribing Guidelines**

- 1 Appropriate Diagnosis
- 2. Comprehensive health assessment physical examination.
- 3. Discuss plan of care and treatment goals
   4. Informed Consent/Treatment agreement
- 5. Initiate an appropriate trial of an opioid
- 6. Ongoing assessment of Pain and Functional Status
- 7. Random UDS and Pill Counts
- 8. Adapt Treatment as needed.
   9. Consult outside Specialist.
- 10. Thorough documentation of condition and treatment.
- 11. Follow Universally accepted guidelines and laws.

## Helpful Links for Prescribers:

- NH Medical Society
- https://www.nhms.org/resources/opioid

### **Prescribers of Opioids**

- Know how to start, modify, and discontinue opioids.
- Know how to convert from SA to LA or change from on SA to another SA or a LA to another I.A.
- Understand that equal analgesic tables are a guide and are not 100% correct. Take into account incomplete cross-tolerance.

### Risk Assessment for Opioid Use

- Pro:
- -Protects the patient, the public, and your practice.
- -Helps determine most appropriate treatment protocol.
- -Compliance monitoring (frequency of pill counts and UDS)
- Cons
- -Difficult to find a provider to screen patients.
- -Assessments can be open to interpretation.
- -Cost can be prohibitive for patients if not covered on insurance plan.
- -How to chose which patients need to be screened.

### In Office Assessment of Addiction

- · Tools available:
- ORT (Opioid Risk Tool) http://www.agencymeddirectors.wa.gov/files/opioid risktool.pdf
- SOAPP-R http://www.ccwjc.com/Forms/Chronic%20Pain/S OAPP-R.pdf
- COMM (Current Opioid Misuse Measure)
   http://mytopcare.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/05/CO MM.pdf

# High Risk: Likelihood of Misusing Opioid Medications.

- May chose to use only non-opioid medications and alternate treatment modalities.
- If prescribing of opioids is initiated, use longer acting products, smaller quantities, frequent visits, more frequent UDS, and random pill counts.
- Re-screen if any signs of aberrant behaviors.
- Consider NA and/or AA services if needed.
- Role of Methadone /Suboxone Clinics for detoxification.

# Low Risk: Unlikely to misuse opioid medications.

- Set clear expectations for treatment with opioids and sign treatment agreement.
- UDS on day of first RX to ensure compliance with current and/or reported medication regimen and to ensure no other illicit or prescribed drugs are present.
- · Perform random UDS and pill counts.

# **Opioid Benefits:**

- Highly effective, sometime the only effective Rx
- · Promotes healing
- · Improves mood
- · Products with low or "no" ceiling
- Accumulation ~ occur
- Pure agonists have no known end-organ damage

# **Opioids: Potential Problems**

- Side effects
  - Respiratory depression
  - Sedation
  - Nausea / vomiting
  - Urinary retention
  - Hormonal changes
  - Sexual dysfunction
  - Constipation

- Risks
- Addiction
  - Physical dependence
  - Tolerance
- Safety concerns (driving)
- Drug interactions

# A Range of Products

- Weak or Mixed Opioids
  - Codeine
  - Propoxyphene
  - Tramadol
  - Pentazocine

  - Nalbuphine

- Strong Opioids
  - Hydrocodone
  - Oxycodone
  - Morphine
  - Levorphanol
  - Hydromorphone
  - Fentanyl
  - Oxymorphone
  - Tapentadol

## **Prescribers of Opioids**

- Know how to start, modify, and discontinue opioids.
- Know how to convert from SA to LA or change from on SA to another SA or a LA to another LA.
- Understand that equal analgesic tables are a guide and are not 100% correct. Take into account incomplete cross-tolerance.

# Commonly Used SA Opioids

Drug	Dosing Strengths mg	Dosing Frequency	Maximum Daily Dose
Oxycodone Oxycodone/ Acetaminophen Aspirin Ibuprofen	5,10,15,20,30 2 .5,5,7.5,10 325 to 650 4.8/ 325 5/400	5 to 30 mg q4 prn 2.5 to 10 mg q4 to 6 prn q6 prn qd to qid prn	Not defined 4 grams Acet. In 24 hr. 12 per 24 hr. 4 per 24 hr.
Hydrocodone/ Acetaminophen Ibuprofen	2.5,5,7.5,10 300 to 700 mg 200	2.5 to 10 mg q4 to 6 prn q4 to 6 h prn	4 grams Acet. in 24 hr. Max 5 qd
Hydromorphone	2,4,8	2-8 mg q3 to 4 prn	Not defined
Morphine IR	15,30	10-30 mg q3 to 4 prn	Not defined
Nucynta	50,75,100	50 to 100 mg q4 to 6 prn	Not defined

#### Long-Acting Opioids Commonly Used

Drug	Dosing Interval	Available Strengths	Administration	Bolus	Ceiling dose
KADIAN® Morphine Extended- Release Capsule	q12hr q24hr	20, 30, 50, 60, 100 mg	Capsule, Sprinkle, G-Tube	No	1
AVINZA® Morphine Extended- Release Capsule	q24hr	30, 60, 90, 120 mg	Capsule, Sprinkle	Yes	1600 mg/day
OxyContin Oxycodone Hydrochloride Extended Release hcl	q12hr	10, 20, 40, 80, 160 mg	Tablet	Yes	-
MS Contin®	q8hr q12hr	15, 30, 60, 100, 200 mg	Tablet	No	-
Duragesic	048 hr	12, 25,	Transdormal		

# Long-Acting Opioids (continued)

Opana ER <sub>®</sub>					
Removed June 8th 2017	Q 12hr	5, 10, 20, 40	Tablet	No	•
Exalgo (R) Hydromorphone HCL Extended Reliesse	Q 24 hr	8,12,16 mg	Tablet	No	-
Butrans® Buprenorphine Transdermal System	Q week	5, 10, 20 mcg/hr	Transdermal Patch	No	-
Nucynta ER® Tapentadol Extended -Release Tablets	Q 12 hr	50,100,150, 200, 250	Tablet	No	-
Methadone Dolophine	Q 8 hours	5, 10	tablet	No	-

### Products to avoid (or use cautiously)

- DO NOT USE PLACEBOS
- Avoid
  - Demerol
- Use Cautiously
  - Codeine
  - Tramadol
  - Agonist/antagonist drugs
  - Methadone

# **Pain Treatment Agreements**

**Positives** 

-Clear expectations

-Informed Consent

-Documentation

-Patient safety

-Safe Guarding Practice

Negatives

-Patient Perceptions about agreements

-Open to interpretation.

-Time and staff power needed to keep agreements up to

date.

PAIN TREATMENT AGREEMENT

### Please initial each line after reading.

i: I will obtain all prescriptions for my medications during a scheduled office visit every 28 30 days unless otherwise specified by my provider. NO refills of any medication will be done during the evening or on weaken

J: At any time and without notice, I may be require to return any unused opioid medication prescribed by my provider in the original bottles and provide a urine sample if called in to do so within a four hour paired.

It is will not use illegal or street drugs or alcohol. If I have an addiction problem, this providing may ask me to follow through with program to address this issue. Such programs may include

will not destroy or dispose of any discontinued or currently prescribed medications written by Integrated Pain Care unless specifically instructed to do so.

4. I will keep my scheduled appointments and/or cancel my appointment a minimum of at least 24 hours prior to the appointment. Otherwise I will be charged a fee and repeated epilodes could reach in administrative discharge from the practice.

- 8.1 understand that this provider may stop prescribing opioids, change the treatme or terminate the patient/provider relationship if.

  Lide not show any improvement in pain from opioids or my physical activity in improvement.

  - My behavior is inconsistent with the responsibilities outlined in #1 abit.
     I give, sail or misuse opioid medication.
     I develop rapid tolerance or loss of improvement from the treatment.
     I obtain opioide from someone other than this provider.
     I refuse to cooperate when asked to get a drug screen or a pill count.

1.	taken as directed a withdrawal symptor response. The withdrawal syndrome co- nervousness, abdominal cramps, diarri- it should be noted that physical depend	ie opioid medication is abruptly stopped or not in can occur. This is a normal physiological uild include, but are not limited to, sweating, response bumps, and alterations in one's moo- lence does not equal addiction. One can be or dependent on prednisone (steroids) to treat neulin or prednisone.
2.	that result in decreased effectiveness of	n which exposure to the drugs induces changes if one or more of the drug's effects over time. The sted up or down to a dose that produces ase of the patient's pain.
3.	environmental factors influencing its de behavior that induces one or more of th	ogical disease with genetic, psychosocial and velopment manifestation. It is characterized by e following: impaired control over drug use, harm, and cravings. This means the drug
4.	Problems with pregnancy. If you are provider.	pregnant or contemplating becoming pregnant,
	(If applicable) I will inform my pro	ovider if I become pregnant while under their car
	satisfactorily. I consent to the use of op- my treatment with opioids will be carried	and have had all my questions answered olds to help control my pain and I understand th d out as described above. Please list pharmacy you will fill all of your prescribed medications fro ulred you agree to inform the IPC staff.
	Patient Signature	Date
	Provider Signature	Date
	Witness Signature	Date
		Pharmacy Phone

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in workers compensation benefits,	I understand and agree to the above conditions, and I acknowledge that the Pain Management Program has now been explained to my satisfaction.
. Patient Signature Date	Petient Signature Date
Patient Signature Date	Patient Signature Date
Printed Name	Printed Name

# **Compliance Monitoring**

#### **Positives**

### Negatives

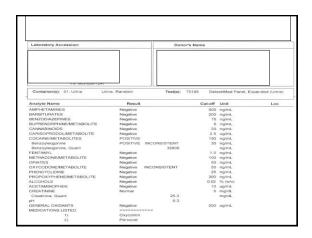
- Necessary to protect
   Cost the patient, provider, • Staffing and society.

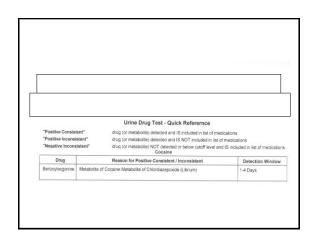
  - Time
- Monitors adherence to treatment protocol
- Patient complaints

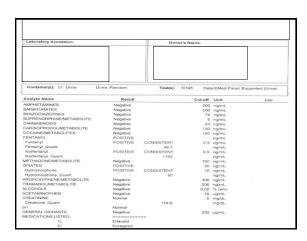
# **Laboratory Information**

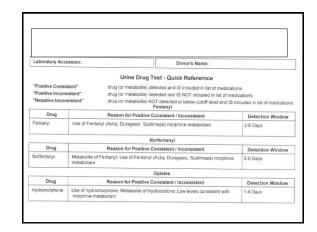
- Know the cut off levels for a given drug.
- · Know which drugs are screened for on a standard panel and which need to be added.
- If using a commercial lab, ensure that pricing information is available for a given panel and add ons.
- Have a go to person to address problems or concerns.

# **Toxicology Report Examples**

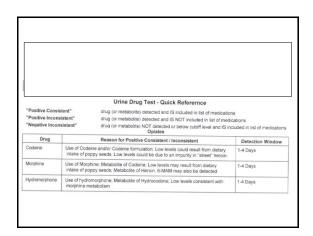


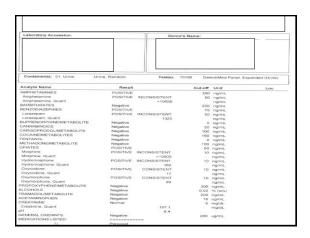


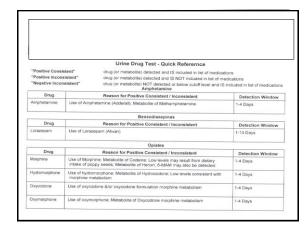




Laboratory Accession:	_	Dor	or's Name:		
Container(s): 01: Urine	Urine, Random	Test(s):	70195 Det	ectiMed Panel, E	expanded (Urine)
Analyte Name	Result		Cut-off	Unit	Loc
AMPHETAMINES	Negative		500	ng/mL	
BARBITURATES	Negative		200	ng/mL	
BENZODIAZEPINES	Negative		75	ng/ml.	
BUPRENORPHINE/METABOLITE	Negative		5	ng/ml_	
CANNABINOIDS	Negative		20	ng/mt.	
CARISOPRODOLMETABOLITE	Negative		100	ng/mL	
COCAINE/METABOLITES	Negative		150	ng/mt.	
FENTANYL	Negative		2	ng/mL	
METHADONE/METABOLITE	Negative			ng/mL	
OPIATES	POSITIVE			ng/mL	
Morphine	POSITIVE	CONSISTENT		ng/mt.	
Morphine, Quant		>10000		ng/mL	
Codeine	POSITIVE	INCONSISTENT	10	ng/mL	
Codeine, Quant		15		ng/mL	
Hydromorphone	POSITIVE	CONSISTENT	10	ng/mL	
Hydromorphone, Quant		582		ng/mL	
PROPOXYPHENEMETABOLITE	Negative		300	ng/mL	
TRAMADOL/METABOLITE	Negative			ng/mL	
ILCOHOLS	Negative			% (w/v)	
CETAMINOPHEN	Negative			ug/mL	
CREATININE	Normal			mg/dL	
Creatinine, Quant		95.9		mg/dL	
aH .	Normal				
SENERAL OXIDANTS	Negative		200	ug/mt_	
MEDICATIONS LISTED	******	****		17.5 Paris	
	MS Contin				







### **Ethical Considerations**

- Undertreatment of pain and following the CDC Guidelines Opioid dosing.
- Some Chronic pain patients have been on high dose opioids for decades.
- · Reducing Opioids can significantly impact pain intensity, QOL, and Functional Status
- · Labeling of patients on opioids as being addicted to their medications (Friends, Family, Medical Providers, Government, and Society)

### Sociocultural Issues

- Primary issue is access to care for patients with acute and chronic pain conditions (ER, PCP, Specialty)
- Pain management approaches utilizing opioids are becoming more limited for patients and they are seeking alternate means to manage their pain (Self Medicating)
- Patients who have been on high dose opioids for many years are now being tapered off or greatly reduced, considered "Pain Refugees"
- Government agencies creating guidelines that are a one size fits all approach, not taking into consideration the treating providers knowledge base, experience, and relationship with his/her patient.

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