

Safe Opioid Prescribing for Physicians and Dentists

Resources from The Doctors Company

Advanced Practice Clinicians: A Preventive Action and Loss Guide. The Doctors Company. https://www.thedoctors.com/articles/advanced-practice-clinicians-a-preventive-action-and-loss-reduction-guide/

Analysis of Closed Claims. The Doctors Company YouTube video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FvkjS1lLqQ

Assisting in Your Defense: Strategies for Healthcare Practitioners. The Doctors Company. https://www.thedoctors.com/articles/assisting-in-your-defense-strategies-for-healthcare-practitioners/

Coping with Litigation: Tips for Healthcare Professionals. The Doctors Company. https://www.thedoctors.com/articles/coping-with-litigation-tips-for-healthcare-professionals/

Other Resources and References

Ahmad FB, Cisewski JA, Rossen LM, Sutton P. Provisional drug overdose death counts. National Center for Health Statistics. 2023.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm

AHRQ Research Protocol: Treatments for Acute Pain: A Systematic Review. January 2020. https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/treatments-acute-pain/protocol

A Prescriber's Guide to Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) Opioid Policies. MLN 2021 (PDF Download).

https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mln2886155-prescribers-guide-medicare-prescription-drug-part-d-opioid-policies.pdf

American Geriatrics Society 2023 updated AGS Beers Criteria ® for potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults.

https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jgs.18372

American Medical Association Opioid Task Force 2020 Progress Report. Physicians' progress toward ending the nation's drug overdose and death epidemic (PDF Download).

https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-07/opioid-task-force-progress-report.pdf

Ask Me³ Good Questions for Your Good Health. http://www.ihi.org/resources/Pages/Tools/Ask-Me-3-Good-Questions-for-Your-Good-Health.aspx



A town of 3,200 was flooded with nearly 21 million pain pills as the addiction crisis worsened, lawmakers say. Bever L. Washington Post. January 31, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2018/01/31/a-town-of-3200-was-flooded-with-21-million-pain-pills-as-addiction-crisis-worsened-lawmakers-say

American Society of Hematology 2020 guidelines for sickle cell disease: management of acute and chronic pain. June 19, 2020.

https://doi.org/10.1182/bloodadvances.2020001851

Attorney General James Files Nation's Most Comprehensive Suit Against Opioid Distributors and Manufactures.

https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2019/attorney-general-james-files-nations-most-comprehensive-suit-against-opioid

Calculating Total Daily Dose of Opioids for Safer Dosage.

https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/providers/prescribing/pdf/calculating-total-daily-dose.pdf

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Improving Drug Utilization Review Controls in Part D. 2022 Medicare Part D Opioid Policies: Information for Prescribers. Feb 15, 2024.

https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/prescription-drug-coverage-contracting/improving-drug-utilization-review-controls-part-d

CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain — United States, 2022 See Recommendation 1.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/rr/rr7103a1.htm

CDC Helpful Materials for Patients.

https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/patients/materials.html

CDC. Lifesaving Naloxone. January 25, 2023.

https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone/index.html

CDC Pocket Guide to Tapering.

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/clinical_pocket_guide_tapering-a.pdf

CDC – Prevent Opioid Misuse.

https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/patients/prevent-misuse.html

CDC Resource Center.

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/resources/index.html

Chen EY, Marcantonio A. Tornetta P. Correlation Between 24-Hour Predischarge Opioid Use and Amount of Opioids Prescribed at Hospital Discharge. JAMA Surg. 2018;153(2):e174859. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2017.4859



Chua K-P et. al. Opioid prescribing patterns by dental procedure among US publicly and privately insured patients, 2013 through 2018. JADA. APRIL 01, 2021; 152(4): 309-317. https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(21)00020-9/fulltext

Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cannabis and Cannabinoid-Based Medicines in the Management of Chronic Pain and Co-Occurring Conditions. Cannabis Cannabinoid Res. 2023 Mar 27. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36971587/

Comparison of Opioid Prescribing by Dentists in the United States and England, LAMA Netw Open. 2019 May 3;2(5):e194303. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.4303.

Consent Decree Approved Among the U.S. and Cumberland, M.D. based Pharmacy and Pharmacist. DEA. <a href="https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2023/07/06/consent-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-decree-approved-among-us-and-cumberland-md-based-pharmacy-and-decree-approved-among-us

Court Orders Maryland Pharmacy to Pay \$120,000 Penalty in Case Alleging Unlawful Opioid Distribution. Office of Public Affairs. U.S. Department of Justice.

https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/court-orders-maryland-pharmacy-pay-120000-penalty-case-alleging-unlawful-opioid-

<u>distribution#:~:text=A%20federal%20court%20enjoined%20a,pay%20a%20%24120%2C000%20civil%20penalty.</u>

DEA. Diversion Control Division. Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section. Gabapentin (Neurontin®). January 2023.

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/gabapentin.pdf

Dentist Sentenced for Running Prescription Opioid Fraud Scheme. https://www.justice.gov/usao-edva/pr/dentist-sentenced-running-prescription-opioid-fraud-scheme

DIRE Score for Opioid Treatment.

https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/10035/dire-score-opioid-treatment

Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know; FDA; updated 10.1.2020 https://www.fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know#T

Doctor Convicted of Unlawfully Distributing Opioids. Office of Public Affairs. U.S. Department of Justice.

https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/doctor-convicted-unlawfully-distributing-opioids

Dowell D, Ragan KR, Jones CM, Baldwin GT, Chou R. CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain - United States, 2022. MMWR Recomm Rep 2022;71(No. RR-3):1-95. DOI.

http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7103a1



DEA. Facts About Fentanyl.

https://www.dea.gov/resources/facts-about-fentanyl

Drug Disposal: FDA's Flush List for Certain Medicines. FDA.

https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines

Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 Annually For Immediate Release: CDC 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2021/20211117.htm

Effect of a Single Dose of Oral Opioid and Nonopioid Analgesics on Acute Extremity Pain in the Emergency Department A Randomized Clinical Trial. Chang AK, Bijur PE, Esses D, Barnaby DP, Baer J. JAMA. 2017;318(17):1661–1667. doi:10.1001/jama.2017.16190. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2661581

Effect of Opioid vs Nonopioid Medications on Pain-Related Function in Patients With Chronic Back Pain or Hip or Knee Osteoarthritis Pain The SPACE Randomized Clinical Trial Erin E. Krebs, MD, MPH; Gravely, A., MA; Nugent, S. BA; et. al. JAMA. 2018;319(9):872-882. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.0899. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2673971

Exposure-Response Association Between Concurrent Opioid and Benzodiazepine Use and Risk of Opioid-Related Overdose in Medicare Part D Beneficiaries. Hernandez I, He M, Brooks MM, Zhang Y. JAMA Netw Open. 2018;1(2):e180919. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.0919. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2685628

Federation of Medical Boards Pain Management Policies Board by Board Overview. https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/key-issues/pain-management-by-state.pdf

Federation of Medical Boards Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs State by State Overview. https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/prescription-drug-monitoring-programs-adopted.pdf

Federation of Medical Boards Opioid/Pain Management Related CME Requirements Board by Board Overview.

https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/key-issues/continuing-medical-education-by-state.pdf

FDA. FDA Approves Prescription Nasal Spray to Reverse Opioid Overdose. May 22, 2023. https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-prescription-nasal-spray-reverse-opioid-overdose

FDA. Information about Naloxone and Nalmefene.

https://www.fda.gov/drugs/postmarket-drug-safety-information-patients-and-providers/information-about-naloxone-and-nalmefene



FDA Drug Disposal: Permanent Collection Locations and Sites. Drug Take Back Locations. https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-drug-take-back-locations#PeriodicEvents

FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA identifies harm reported from sudden discontinuation of opioid pain medicines and requires label changes to guide prescribers on gradual, individualized tapering. Drug Safety Communication. April 9, 2019.

https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm635038.htm

FDA News Brief. FDA approves the first non-opioid treatment for management of opioid withdrawal symptoms in adults. May 16, 2018.

https://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm607884.htm

FDA – Risks Associated with the Environmental Release of Pharmaceuticals on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration "Flush List." Drug Disposal: Questions and Answers.

https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines

FDA Statement by Douglas Throckmorton, M.D., Deputy Center Director for Regulatory Programs in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, on new opioid analgesic labeling changes to give providers better information for how to properly taper patients who are physically dependent on opioids. April 9, 2019.

https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm635640.htm

Federation of State Medical Boards. Opioids and Pain Management 2019. http://www.fsmb.org/opioids/

Fentanyl and its analogues – 50 years on. GLOBAL SMART UPDATE. https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/Global_SMART_Update_17_web.pdf

For the first time, the feds criminally charged a pharma distributor for the opioid epidemic. https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/4/23/18512781/rochester-drug-cooperative-opioid-epidemic-drug-trafficking

Global Smart Update, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. Volume 17, March 2017. https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/Global SMART Update 17 web.pdf

Guideline for Discharge Opioid Prescriptions after Inpatient General Surgical Procedures. Hill M, Stucke RS, Billmeier SE, Kelly, JL, Barth, RJ. J Amer Coll Surg. June 2018Volume 226, Issue 6, Pages 996–1003. https://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515(17)32055-0/pdf

Guy GP Jr., Zhang K. Opioid Prescribing by Specialty and Volume in the U.S. Am J Prev Med. 2018;55(5):e153-e155. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2018.06.008.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6327317/



HAN - Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00438.asp

Harbaugh CM, Lee JS, Hu HM, McCabe SE, Voepel-Lewis T, Englesbe MJ, Brummett CM, Waljee JF. Persistent Opioid Use Among Pediatric Patients After Surgery. Pediatrics. 2018 Jan;141(1):e20172439. doi: 10.1542/peds.2017-2439. Epub 2017 Dec 4. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7053700/

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION. OPVEE® (nalmefene) nasal spray (PDF Download).

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2023/217470Orig1s000.pdf

HHS Tool. Naloxone: The Opioid Reversal Drug that Saves Lives. How Healthcare Providers and Patients Can Better Utilize this Life-Saving Drug.

https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/sites/default/files/2018-12/naloxone-coprescribing-guidance.pdf

DIRE Score for Opioid Treatment

https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/10035/dire-score-opioid-treatment

Justice Department Takes First-of-its-Kind-Legal Action to Reduce Opioid Over-Prescription. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-takes-first-its-kind-legal-action-reduce-opioid-over-prescription

Mattson CL, Chowdhury F, Gilson TP. Notes from the Field: Trends in Gabapentin Detection and Involvement in Drug Overdose Deaths - 23 States and the District of Columbia, 2019-2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2022; 71:664-666.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7119a3.htm#

National Cancer Institute. Cancer Pain (PDQ®)—Health Professional Version. https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/side-effects/pain/pain-hp-pdq

Moore P et.al. Benefits and harms associated with analgesic medications used in the management of acute dental pain: An overview of systematic reviews. JADA. April 1, 2018; 149(4): 256-265. https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(18)30117-X/fulltext

National Conference of State Legislatures, State Prescription Drug Return Reuse and Recycling Laws. http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/state-prescription-drug-return-reuse-and-recycling.aspx

National Institute on Drug Abuse. Drug Overdose Death Rates. https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates

National Vital Statistics System, Mortality File, CDC WONDER. https://wonder.cdc.gov/



NCHS, National Vital Statistics System.

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm

NIDA Opioid Risk Tool. https://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/files/OpioidRiskTool.pdf

Opioid Settlement Payouts to Localities Made Public for First Time. KFF Health News. https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/opioid-settlement-data-transparency/

Pardo B. Do more robust prescription drug monitoring programs reduce prescription opioid overdose? Addiction. 2017 Oct;112(10):1773-1783. doi: 10.1111/add.13741. Epub 2017 Feb 8. PMID: 28009931.

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28009931/#:~:text=Conclusions%3A%20US%20states%20that%20have,deaths%20than%20states%20without%20these.

Persistent Opioid Use Among Pediatric Patients After Surgery Harbaugh C, Lee JS, Hu HM, McCabe SE, Voepel-Lewis T, Englesbe MJ, Brummett CM, Waljee JF. Pediatrics Jan 2018, 141 (1) e20172439; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2017-2439

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7053700/

Pharmaceutical President Sentenced in Counterfeit Drug Trafficking Conspiracy. DEA.

https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2023/07/27/pharmaceutical-president-sentenced-counterfeit-drug-trafficking

Policy Research Perspectives: Medical Liability Claim Frequency Among U.S. Physicians. AMA (PDF Download).

https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/policy-research-perspective-medical-liability-claim-frequency.pdf

Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm

PubMed – Alternating acetaminophen and ibuprofen for pain management.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=alternating+acetaminophen+and+ibuprofen+for+pain+management

PubMed – Complementary Therapies: pain and Depression.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=complimentary+Therapies+pain+and+depression

Reduction in Opioid Prescribing Through Evidence-Based Prescribing Guidelines. Howard R, Waljee J, Brummett C, Englesbe M, Lee J. JAMA Surg. 2018;153(3):285–287. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2017.4436. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamasurgery/fullarticle/2664659



Shah M, Huecker MR. Opioid Withdrawal. [Updated 2023 Jul 21]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2024 Jan-.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK526012/

State Prescription Drug Repository Programs. NCSL.

https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-prescription-drug-repository-programs

Suburban Chicago Physician Sentenced to Federal Prison for Prescribing Opioids Without a Medical Exam. DEA.

https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2023/07/17/suburban-chicago-physician-sentenced-federal-prison-prescribing-opioids

Suda KJ, Durkin MJ, Calip GS, et al. Comparison of Opioid Prescribing by Dentists in the United States and England. JAMA Netw Open. 2019;2(5):e194303. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.4303.

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2734067

The First Count of Fentanyl Deaths in 2016: Up 540% in Three Years. Katz, J. Sept. 2, 2017 https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/02/upshot/fentanyl-drug-overdose-deaths.html

Toms River Woman Charged with Unauthorized Practice of Medicine, Forgery, Health Care Claims Fraud, and Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance. DEA.

https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2023/07/27/toms-river-woman-charged-unauthorized-practice-medicine-forgery-health

United States Reaches \$34 Million Settlement with Cardinal Health for Civil Penalties Under The Controlled Substances Act.

https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/pr/united-states-reaches-34-million-settlement-cardinal-health-civil-penalties-under-0

UpToDate: Opioid use disorder: Epidemiology, pharmacology, clinical manifestations, course, screening, assessment and diagnosis. https://www.uptodate.com/home/uptodate-subscription-options-clinicians

US Department of Justice. Office of Public Affairs. Justice Department takes first-of-its-kind legal action to reduce opioid over-prescription. Justice News. August 22, 2018. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-takes-first-its-kind-legal-action-reduce-opioid-over-prescription

US Department of Justice. Office of Public Affairs. National health care fraud takedown results in charges against 601 individuals responsible for over \$2 Billion in fraud losses. Justice News. August 22, 2018.

https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/national-health-care-fraud-takedown-results-charges-against-601-individuals-responsible-over



What You Should Know About Xylazine. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/other-drugs/xylazine/faq.html

Where and How to Dispose of Unused Medications https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/where-and-how-dispose-unused-medicines

Wilson N, Kariisa M, Seth P, Smith H IV, Davis NL. Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths - United States, 2017-2018. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020; 69:290-297. DOI. http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6911a4