



**Policies and Practicalities:  
Focusing on the Patient, Not the Opioid**

Jennifer Hah, MD, MS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Disclosures**

- Nothing to disclose



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Learning Objectives**

- Demonstrate knowledge of current legislation and guidelines regarding opioid prescribing and opioid tapering in the context of chronic noncancer pain
- Review current evidence-based approaches to opioid tapering in chronic noncancer pain
- Explain the benefits of opioid tapering in terms of improvements in pain, function, and mood
- Identify the role of behavioral interventions in the management of pain and the data supporting their use



---

---

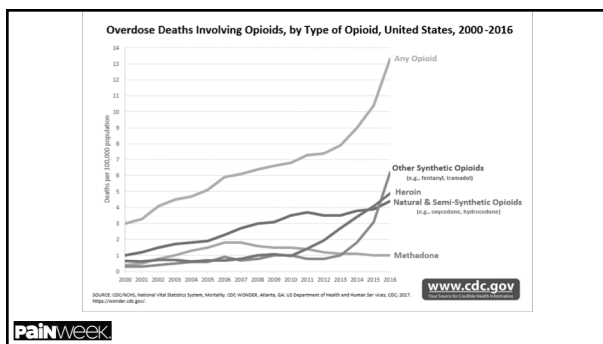
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

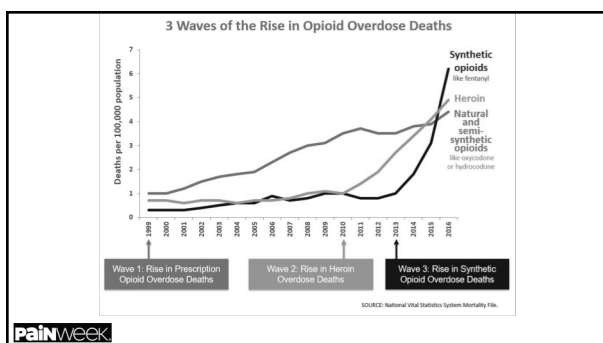
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

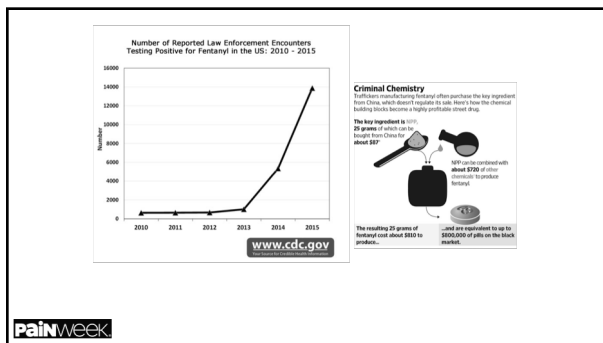
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

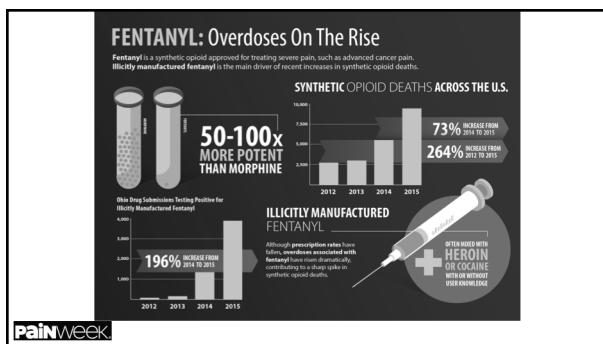
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com

**Ohio is hardest hit by Chinese carfentanil trade, logging 343 of more than 400 seizures in U.S.**

The DEA says the carfentanil spreading through illicit drug markets in the U.S. is now being over-run from its own domestic supplies. The carfentanil that has been seized in multiple U.S. states is believed to be arriving from foreign sources via illicit networks," Russell Baer, a DEA special agent in Washington, said by email.

The main geographic cluster centers on Ohio, which has been hardest hit with 343 confirmed carfentanil seizures. The drug has also spread through the surrounding states of **Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania**. Carfentanil has been seized at least 34 times in **North Carolina**, the second-hardest hit state, and has been identified in **Virginia and West Virginia**. DEA is waiting on confirmation from cases in West Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania.

The resulting wave of human misery has been overwhelming. In just 21 days in July, paramedics in Akron logged 236 overdoses, including 14 fatalities, with suspected links to carfentanil, according to the DEA. In the first six months of

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Opioid Bills in Congress**

- **H.R. 6, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act:** bipartisan bill advancing treatment and recovery initiatives, improving prevention, protecting communities, and bolstering efforts to fight deadly illicit synthetic drugs like fentanyl!
- Require all state Medicaid programs to have a beneficiary assignment program that identifies Medicaid beneficiaries at-risk for substance use disorder (SUD) and assigns them to a pharmaceutical home program, which must set reasonable limits on the number of prescribers and dispensers that beneficiaries may utilize (H.R. 5808)
- Require state Medicaid programs to have safety edits in place for opioid refills, monitor concurrent prescribing of opioids and certain other drugs, and monitor antipsychotic prescribing for children (H.R. 5799)

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Opioid Bills in Congress (cont'd)

- **H.R. 6, the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act:**
- Add a review of current opioid prescriptions and, as appropriate, a screening for opioid use disorder (OUD) as part of the Welcome to Medicare initial examination (H.R. 5798)
- Incentivize post-surgical injections as a pain treatment alternative to opioids by reversing a reimbursement cut for these treatments in the Ambulatory Service Center setting, as well as collect data on a subset of codes related to these treatments (H.R. 5804)
- Require e-prescribing, with exceptions, for coverage of prescription drugs that are controlled substances under the Medicare Part D program (H.R. 3528)




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Opioid Bills in Congress (cont'd)

- **H.R.4275 - Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act:** This bill requires the Department HHS to develop and disseminate training programs and materials on: (1) the circumstances under which a pharmacist may refuse to fill a controlled substance prescription suspected to be fraudulent, forged, or indicative of abuse or diversion; and (2) federal requirements related to such refusal.
- **H.R.5473 - Better Pain Management Through Better Data Act of 2018**
- **H.R.5811 - Long-Term Opioid Efficacy Act of 2018**




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 2019 Medicare Advantage and Part D Rate Announcement and Call Letter 4.2.18

- **Opioid naïve patients:** To reduce the potential for chronic opioid use or misuse, we expect all Part D sponsors to implement a hard safety edit to limit initial opioid prescription fills for the treatment of acute pain to no more than a 7 days' supply.
- **High risk opioid users:** We are building upon and expanding the Overutilization Monitoring System (OMS), which has already significantly reduced the number of high risk beneficiaries. The OMS retrospectively identifies those beneficiaries we consider at significant risk (using high levels of opioids from multiple prescribers and pharmacies). Sponsors review these cases and perform case management with the beneficiaries' prescribers.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 2019 Medicare Advantage and Part D Rate Announcement and Call Letter 4.2.18 (cont'd)

- Chronic opioid users: We expect all sponsors to implement real-time safety alerts at the time of dispensing as a proactive step to engage both patients and prescribers about overdose risk and prevention.
- We expect all sponsors to implement an opioid care coordination edit at 90 morphine milligram equivalent (MME) per day. This formulary-level safety edit should trigger when a beneficiary's cumulative MME per day across their opioid prescriptions reaches or exceeds 90 MME. In implementing this edit, sponsors should instruct the pharmacist to consult with the prescriber, document the discussion, and if the prescriber confirms intent, use an override code that specifically states that the prescriber has been consulted. Sponsors will have the flexibility to include a prescriber and/or pharmacy count in the opioid care coordination edit. Sponsors will also have the flexibility to implement hard safety edits (which can only be overridden by the sponsor) and set the threshold at 200 MME or more and may include prescriber/pharmacy counts.




---

---

---

---

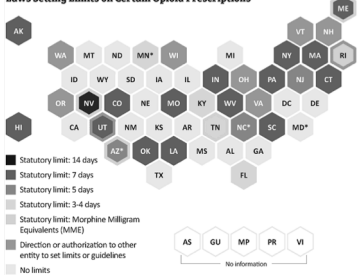
---

---

---

---

Laws Setting Limits on Certain Opioid Prescriptions



\*Note: This map displays the state's primary opioid prescription limit and does not include additional limits on certain providers or in certain settings. Arizona allows prescriptions up to 14 days following surgical procedures and Florida allows up to seven days for post-operative relief. Maryland requires the "lowest effective dose." Minnesota's limit is for acute dental or orthopedic pain. This map also does not reflect limits for regions that exist in at least eight states. Source: NCSL, StateNet




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### State Legislation

- Most legislation limits initial opioid prescribing to a certain number of days, 7 days is most common (or 3, 5, or 14 days)
- In a few cases, states also set dosage limits (morphine milligram equivalents, or MMEs)
- Nearly half the states with limits specify that they apply to treating acute pain, and most states set exceptions for chronic pain treatment, palliative care, cancer pain treatment, MAT, or provider judgement
- Many laws stipulate that any exceptions must be documented in the patient's medical record
- Certain states authorize other entities (eg, provider regulatory boards, commercial insurers, state Medicaid programs) to implement policies for prescribing certain controlled substances




---

---

---

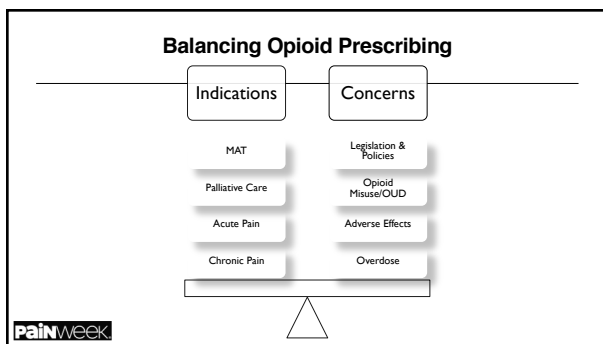
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

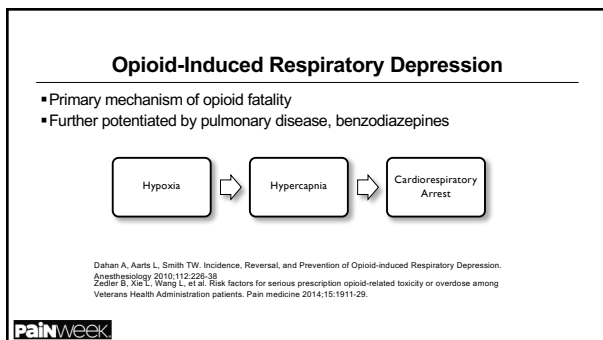
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

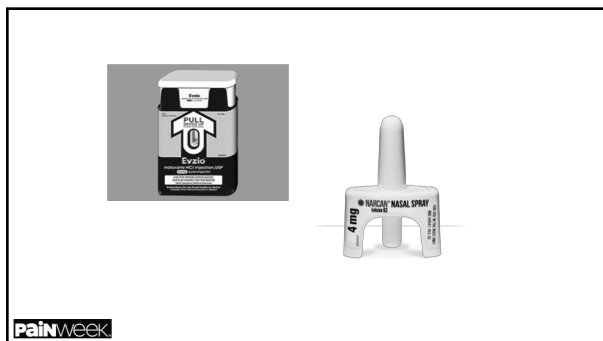
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Risk Factors for Prescription Opioid Overdose

- Mean OME >50 mg/d (OR = 1.986 [95% CI, 1.509-2.614])
- Methadone use (OR = 7.230 [95% CI, 2.346-22.286])
- Drug/alcohol abuse (OR = 3.104 [95% CI, 2.195-4.388])
- Other psychiatric illness (OR = 1.730 [95% CI, 1.307-2.291])
- Benzodiazepine use (OR = 2.005 [95% CI, 1.516-2.652])
- Multiple pharmacies (OR = 1.514 [95% CI, 1.003-2.286])

Dikshitarajul P, Moore G, Campbell JD, et al. Risk Factors of Prescription Opioid Overdose Among Colorado Medicaid Beneficiaries. J Pain. 2016;17(4):436-443.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Overdose Deaths and Chronic Pain

- 61.5% of overdose decedents received a chronic noncancer pain diagnosis in the last year of life
- Those with chronic pain were more likely to have filled opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions during the last 30 days of life
- Only 4% of all decedents had a diagnoses of opioid use disorder
- Higher incidence of depression and anxiety amongst those with chronic pain

Olson M, Wall M, Wang S, Crystal S, Barrio C. Service Use Preceding Opioid-Related Fatality. Am J Psychiatry. 2017;appag20171707808.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Prescription Opioids

- Increased rates of substance abuse and depression exist in long-term prescription opioid users compared to nonusers with chronic pain
- Pain intensity does not predict treatment with opioids vs nonopioid analgesics
- Depression and anxiety contribute to substance use disorders amongst long-term opioid users

Beckwith J, Clark JD. Patient characteristics associated with opioid versus nonopioid analgesic management of chronic low back pain. J Pain. 2003;4(5):344-50.  
Edlund MJ, Sullivan M, Serflin D, Harris AM, Walsh KB. Do users of regularly prescribed opioids have higher rates of substance use problems than nonusers? Pain Med. 2007;8(5):647-56.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Prescribing Patterns

- Statewide retrospective cohort study
- 26,785 (5.0 %) of 536,767 opioid naive patients who filled an opioid prescription became long-term users
- Numbers of fills, cumulative MMEs during the initiation month were associated with long-term use
- Initiating with long-acting opioids had a higher risk of long-term use

Depp RA, Hahn SC, Sturgeon C, et al. Association Between Initial Opioid Prescribing Patterns and Subsequent Long-Term Use Among Opioid-Naive Patients: A Statewide Retrospective Cohort Study. J Gen Intern Med. 2017;32(12):2127-2135.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Take Home Points

- Careful prescribing of long-acting opioids
- Limit refills
- Curb dosages



---

---

---

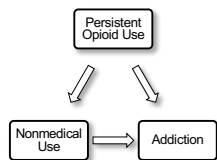
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Nonmedical Prescription Opioid Use

- Prospective, multisite, observational study
- 3396 HIV-infected and uninfected patients enrolled into the Veterans Aging Cohort Study, followed from 2002-2012
- Nonmedical use of prescription opioids was associated positively and independently with heroin initiation [adjusted hazard ratio (AHR) = 5.43, 95% CI = 4.01, 7.35]

Beveridge G, Edelman EJ, Barry DT, et al. Non-medical use of prescription opioids is associated with heroin initiation among US veterans: a prospective cohort study. *Addiction*. Nov 2016;111(11):2001-2009.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Opioid Tapering

- Opioid detoxification as outpatient vs inpatient is comparable
- Successful opioid tapering in intensive outpatient and inpatient pain rehabilitation programs (↓pain, ↑functioning, ↓depression, ↓catastrophizing)
- Patients with comorbid chronic pain and opioid misuse can undergo tapering without ↑pain or ↓QOL

Nissen HK, Sikes TC, Landis NJ, Fan EA, Kava S, Borshjevic PC. Patients with problematic opioid use can be weaned from cocaine without pain escalation. *Acute Anesth Analg*. 2015;44(5):971-9.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Guidelines for Opioid Therapy

- Thorough patient evaluation (eg, psychological and psychosocial factors to identify potential drug misuse and abuse)
- Adequate risks vs benefits discussion (informed consent)
- Begin with a trial of opioid therapy
- Conservative, individualized opioid regimen
- Continued patient monitoring (loss of response, AEs, aberrant behaviors)

Cheung CW, Gu Q, Choi SH, Moore B, Guoche R, Jovin M. Chronic opioid therapy for chronic non-cancer pain: a review and comparison of treatment guidelines. *Pain Physician*. 2014;17:401-14.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**American Pain Society—  
American Academy of Pain Medicine**

- "6.2 Clinicians should evaluate patients engaging in aberrant drug-related behaviors for appropriateness of COT or need for restructuring of therapy, referral for assistance in management, or discontinuation of COT"
- Restructuring of therapy: more frequent monitoring, temporary or permanent opioid tapering, or the addition of psychological therapies or other non-opioid treatments

Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, et al. Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic noncancer pain. J Pain. 2009;10:113-30.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**American Pain Society—  
American Academy of Pain Medicine (cont'd)**

"7.4 Clinicians should taper or wean patients off COT who engage in repeated aberrant drug-related behaviors or drug abuse/diversion, experience no progress toward meeting therapeutic goals, or experience intolerable adverse effects."

Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, et al. Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic noncancer pain. J Pain. 2009;10:113-30.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**American Pain Society—  
American Academy of Pain Medicine (cont'd)**

- Opioid taper can occur in outpatient setting without severe medical or psychiatric comorbidities
- Opioid detoxification in a rehabilitation setting (outpatient or inpatient)
- Enforced weaning and referral to an addiction specialist may be necessary with aberrant drug-related behaviors

Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, et al. Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic noncancer pain. J Pain. 2009;10:113-30.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### American Pain Society— American Academy of Pain Medicine (cont'd)

- 10% dose reduction weekly
- 25% to 50% dose reduction every few days
- At greater than 200mg/day MEQ initial wean can be more rapid
- At doses of 60-80 mg/day MEQ slower tapers may be required
- Improved well-being and function vs. pain hypersensitivity during opioid withdrawal

Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, et al. Clinical guidelines for the use of chronic opioid therapy in chronic noncancer pain. *J Pain*. 2009;10:113-30.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SOAPP-R

- Cutoff score of  $\geq 18$ , sensitivity was 0.80 (95% CI, 0.70 to 0.89) and specificity was 0.68 (95% CI, 0.60 to 0.75) for identification of any aberrant drug-related behavior
- Each item scored from 0 to 4, maximum score 96

Figure 1. List of SOAPP-R questions

1. How often do you have mood swings?
2. How often have you had a greater desire to increase the amount of medication to treat your pain?
3. How often have you had trouble with your alcohol?
4. How often have you had trouble with your driving that you can't handle them?
5. How often have you had trouble with your work?
6. How often have you needed pain pills to use for things you don't need?
7. How often have you had trouble with your family or relationships?
8. How often have you had trouble with your school or work?
9. How often do you feel lonely?
10. How often do you feel nervous or restless from your pain?
11. How often have you worried about being left alone?
12. How often have you had a change in your appetite?
13. How often have you had any recent weight loss?
14. How often have you had any recent weight gain?
15. How often have you had any recent changes in your sleep?
16. How often have you had any recent changes in your bowel habits?
17. How often have you had any recent changes in your bladder control?
18. How often have you had any recent changes in your vision?
19. How often do you have any recent changes in your hearing?
20. How often do you have any recent changes in your taste or smell?
21. How often do you have any recent changes in your voice or throat?
22. How often do you have any recent changes in your skin or hair?
23. How often do you have any recent changes in your eyes or vision?
24. How often do you have any recent changes in your teeth or mouth?
25. How often do you have any recent changes in your nails or hair?
26. How often do you have any recent changes in your hair or skin?
27. How often do you have any recent changes in your hair or skin?
28. How often do you have any recent changes in your hair or skin?

Chou R, Fanciullo GJ, Fine PG, et al. Opioids for chronic noncancer pain: prediction and identification of aberrant drug-related behaviors: a review of the evidence for an American Pain Society and American Academy of Pain Medicine clinical practice guideline. *J Pain*. Feb 2009;10(2):113-30.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### ORT

- Maximum score=26
- Aberrant drug-related behaviors were identified in 6% (1/18) of patients categorized as low risk (score, 0 to 3), compared with 28% (35/123) of patients categorized as moderate risk (score, 4 to 7) and 91% (41/44) of those categorized as high risk (score  $\geq 8$ ) after 12 months

Mark each box that applies	False	True	Scoring (max 26)
1. Family hx of substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0-3 (Low Risk) 4-7 (Moderate Risk) 8+ (High Risk)
Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prescription drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Personal hx of substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0-3 (Low Risk) 4-7 (Moderate Risk) 8+ (High Risk)
Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prescription drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Age (mark box if 16-40)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0-3 (Low Risk) 4-7 (Moderate Risk) 8+ (High Risk)
4. Hx of prepubescent sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Psychologic disease	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0-3 (Low Risk) 4-7 (Moderate Risk) 8+ (High Risk)
ADHD, OCD, bipolar, schizophrenia, Depression	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Scoring table




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**COMM**

---

- 17-items
- Self-report
- A score of 9 or higher on the COMM has 94% sensitivity and 73% specificity to identify opioid misuse among patients prescribed opioids for pain
- Assesses behaviors within the past 30 days

Duffer ST, Bushman SH, Farnsworth KC, et al. Development and validation of the Current Opioid Misuse Measure. Pain 2007;130:144-56.190245.

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians**

---

"It is essential to monitor for side effects and manage them appropriately including discontinuation of opioids if indicated"

- 10% of the original dose weekly
- Tapering over 6-8 weeks
- Clonidine 0.1-0.2mg PO q6hrs or clonidine 0.1mg/24 hrs TD weekly
- Mild opioid withdrawal symptoms up to 6 months after discontinuation

Murchland L, Abd S, Abul S, et al. American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) guidelines for responsible opioid prescribing in chronic non-cancer pain: Part 2—guidance. Pain Physician. 2012;15:507-140.

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**American Society of  
Interventional Pain Physicians (cont'd)**

---

"Discontinue opioid therapy for lack of response, adverse consequences, and abuse with rehabilitation."

- Tapering or weaning is not necessary for patients who have not taken medication on a long-term basis
- Consider adjuvant treatment for continued opioid withdrawal symptoms
  - Antidepressants
  - Antineuropathics
  - Counseling

Murchland L, Egan AM, Kopylov SN, et al. Responsible, Safe, and Effective Prescription of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain: American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP) Guidelines. Pain Physician Feb 2017;20(2):53-582.

**PainWeek**

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN**

- 7. Clinicians should evaluate benefits and harms with patients within 1 to 4 weeks of starting opioid 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 taper opioids to lower dosages or to taper and discontinue opioids (recommendation category: A, evidence type: 4).

**PainWeek**

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN**

**Opioid Discontinuation/Tapering**

- No improvements in pain and function
- High-risk regimens (eg, dosages  $\geq 50$  MME/day, opioids combined with benzodiazepines) without evidence of benefit
- Patients believe benefits no longer outweigh risks or if they request dosage reduction or discontinuation
- Overdose or other serious adverse events (eg, an event leading to hospitalization or disability) or warning signs of serious adverse events

**PainWeek**

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

 **GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN**

**Opioid Discontinuation/Tapering (cont'd)**

- Reducing weekly dosage by 10%-50% of the original dosage
- Overdose: rapid taper over 2-3 weeks
- Slower tapers may be appropriate with longer durations of opioid use
- Pregnancy: risk of spontaneous abortion and premature labor

**PainWeek**

---

---

---


---

---

---


---

---


GUIDELINE FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS FOR CHRONIC PAIN

### Opioid Discontinuation/Tapering (cont'd)

- Minimize opioid withdrawal symptoms (drug craving, anxiety, insomnia, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, diaphoresis, mydriasis, tremor, tachycardia, or piloerection)
- Discontinue when taken less than once a day
- Ultrarapid detoxification under anesthesia is associated with substantial risks, including death



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

### Health Plan Driven Opioid Tapering

- Oregon Health Authority and the Health Evidence Review Commission implemented guidance for Oregon Medicaid members who were taking opioids for chronic pain (back and spine) in 2016.

For patients with chronic pain from diagnoses on these lines currently treated with long term opioid therapy, opioids must be tapered off using an individual treatment plan developed by January 1, 2017 with a quit date no later than January 1, 2018. Taper plans must include nonpharmacological treatment strategies for managing the patient's pain based on Guideline Note 56 NON-INTERVENTIONAL TREATMENTS FOR CONDITIONS OF THE BACK AND SPINE. If a patient has developed dependence and/or addiction related to their opioids, treatment is available on Line 4 SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ohha/HPA/CSIS/HERC/Prescribing141016%20Printed%20141%2016%20Health%20Services.pdf>



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

### Health Plan Driven Opioid Tapering (cont'd)

- Provider Outreach (Introductory Letter, Summary Letter—an example 10% taper plan, a nonopioid analgesic therapy resource, a noninterventional therapy resource, and an "Opioid Tapering FAQ" patient handout)
- 16 members (14.2%) had a decrease in MEDD
- 23 members (20.4%) had no change in MEDD
- 72 members (63.7%) had an increase in MEDD
- 2 members (1.8%) were unable to be analyzed because of lapsed CCO coverage

Page 3, Traver R, Patel S, Saliba C. Implementation of a Proactive Pilot Health Plan-Driven Opioid Tapering Program to Decrease Chronic Opioid Use for Conditions of the Back and Spine in a Medicaid Population. J Manag Care Spec Pharm. 2018;24(2):161-166.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Voluntary Patient-Centered Opioid Tapering

- Patients with CNCP prescribed long-term opioids at a community pain clinic
- Provided education about the benefits of opioid reduction
- Physicians offered to partner with patients to slowly reduce their opioid dosages over 4 months
- 51 of 83 patient completed the 4-month follow-up
- Baseline median MEDD 288 (153-587)
- Follow-up median MEDD 150 (IQR, 54-248) mg ( $P = .002$ )
- No increase in pain intensity or interference

Dennis BD, Zarkin MS, Sieg RL, Weckstein G, Kuo MC, Flood P. Patient-Centered Prescription Opioid Tapering in Community Outpatients With Chronic Pain. *JAMA Intern Med* 2018.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Facilitators of Opioid Tapering

- Empathizing with the patient's experience
- Preparing patients for opioid tapering
- Individualizing implementation of opioid tapering
- Supportive guidelines and policies

Kennedy LC, Bravanger IA, Mueller SR, et al. "These Conversations in My Experience Don't Go Well": A Qualitative Study of Primary Care Provider Experiences Tapering Long-term Opioid Medications. *Pain Med* 2017.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy

- 67 studies (11 randomized trials and 56 observational studies)
- Interdisciplinary pain programs, behavioral interventions
- Most studies report dose reduction but discontinuation rates were highly variable
- Improvements in pain severity, function, and quality of life

Frank JW, Loney TJ, Becker WC, et al. Patient Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy: A Systematic Review. *Ann Intern Med* 2017;167(3):181-191.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy (cont'd)

- 4-month interactive voice response intervention vs usual care among patients with chronic pain ( $n = 51$ )
- Optional opioid dose reduction
- Reduced mean opioid dose significantly at 4-months ( $P = 0.04$ ) and 8-months ( $P = 0.004$ ) follow-up

Frank JW, Loney TJ, Becker WC, et al. Patient Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy: A Systematic Review. *Ann Intern Med*. 2017;167(3):181-191.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy (cont'd)

- 8-week group intervention based on mindfulness meditation and cognitive behavioral therapy with usual care among patients receiving LTOT ( $n = 35$ )
- Did not explicitly encourage dose reduction
- The mean change in the daily opioid dose from baseline to 26 weeks was  $-10.1$  mg MED in the intervention group compared with  $-0.2$  mg MED in the control group ( $P = 0.8$ )

Frank JW, Loney TJ, Becker WC, et al. Patient Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy: A Systematic Review. *Ann Intern Med*. 2017;167(3):181-191.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy (cont'd)

- Patient barriers to opioid tapering
- Strategies to enhance patients engagement
- Less resource intensive models of opioid tapering
- No studies address mandatory opioid tapering
- Need for long-term surveillance regarding adverse events (overdose, suicide)

Frank JW, Loney TJ, Becker WC, et al. Patient Outcomes in Dose Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Therapy: A Systematic Review. *Ann Intern Med*. 2017;167(3):181-191.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Patient-Provider Communication**

Explaining      Negotiating

Difficult Conversations      Non-abandonment

Mathias MS, Johnson NL, Shields CG, et al. "The Not Gonna Pull the Plug but Under 'You'" Patient-Provider Communication About Opioid Tapering. *J Pain*. 2017;18(11):1365-1373.

**Painweek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**MI-Based Interventions**

- Pilot RCT of taper support intervention (psychiatric consultation, opioid dose tapering, and 18 weekly meetings with a physician assistant to explore motivation for tapering and learn pain self-management skills) vs usual care
- Lower opioid doses and pain severity ratings in both groups

Sullivan MD, Turner JA, Dilorenzo C, et al. Prescription Opioid Taper Support for Outpatients With Chronic Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Pain*. Mar 2017;18(3):308-318.

**Painweek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**MI-Based Interventions (cont'd)**

MI-based session concerning opioid tapering that included:

- Eliciting the patient's history related to pain, opioid therapy, and related difficulties
- Eliciting change talk related to tapering
- Education about dose-related health risks
- Identifying practical and psychological barriers to tapering opioid dose and problem-solving ways to overcome these; and developing a commitment to change with respect to opioid therapy
- Significant improvements in pain interference, pain self-efficacy, and perceived opioid problems

Sullivan MD, Turner JA, Dilorenzo C, et al. Prescription Opioid Taper Support for Outpatients With Chronic Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Pain*. Mar 2017;18(3):308-318.

**Painweek**

---

---

---

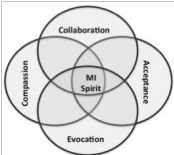
---

---

---

---

---



MI is a collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication with particular attention to the language of change. It is designed to strengthen personal motivation for and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person's own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion.

Miller WR, Rollnick S. Motivational interviewing: helping people change. 3rd ed. New York, NY: Guilford Press; 2013.

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Pain Types

Acute Pain	Chronic Pain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hurt = Harm                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Avoidance decreases damage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Etiology:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clear pathway</li> <li>– Often single cause</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Treatment Course                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fixed end point</li> <li>– Immobilization often essential for recovery</li> <li>– Medications</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hurt ≠ Harm                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fear-avoidance cycle</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Etiology:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Many unknowns</li> <li>– Multifactorial</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Treatment Course                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No fixed end point</li> <li>– Immobilization can worsen condition</li> <li>– Medications: Caution</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Chronic Pain Management

- Development of active self-management tools
- Goals focus on functional improvement and increasing self-efficacy rather than pain reduction

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Chronic Pain Management (cont'd)

- Medical optimization  
– Physician, NP, PA
- Physical reconditioning  
– Rehabilitation provider (PT, OT)
- Behavioral/lifestyle modification  
– Pain psychologist



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Chronic Pain Management Dilemma

- Medical optimization  
– Physician, NP, PA
- ~~Physical reconditioning~~  
– ~~Rehabilitation provider (PT, OT)~~
- ~~Behavioral/lifestyle modification~~  
– ~~Pain psychologist~~



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Stanford Comprehensive Interdisciplinary Pain Program (SCIPP)

- Typical patient
- Pain conditions accepted
- Admission criteria



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Interdisciplinary Treatment**

---

- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Medication optimization (cocktail)
- Lifestyle/behavioral modification

**Pain**week

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Scheduled Activities**

---

- AM rounds
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Pain coping skills class
- Individual provider visits

**Pain**week

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Unscheduled Activities**

---

- Independent practice
- Walking
- Activity tracking log

**Pain**week

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Behaviors Reinforced**

- Consistent across all team members, including nursing
- Application of self-management skills
- Increased activity levels
- Focus on functioning

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Behaviors Not Reinforced**

- Pain behavior
- Medication focus
- Somatic complaints
- Inactivity

**PainWeek**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**SCIPP Outcomes**

- n = 44 (19 male, 25 female)
- Minimum of 1 pain diagnosis
- Assessments:
  - Center for Epidemiologic Study of Diseases – Depression Scale (CESD)
  - McGill Pain Questionnaire (MPQ)
  - McGill Pain Questionnaire-Visual-Analog Scale (MPQ-VAS)
  - Profile of Mood States (POMS)
- Administered within 24 hours of admission and discharge

**PainWeek**

---

---

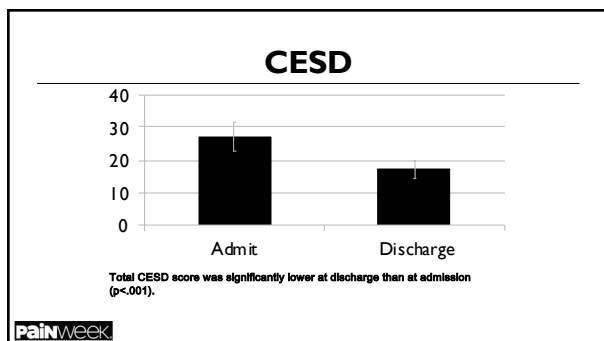
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

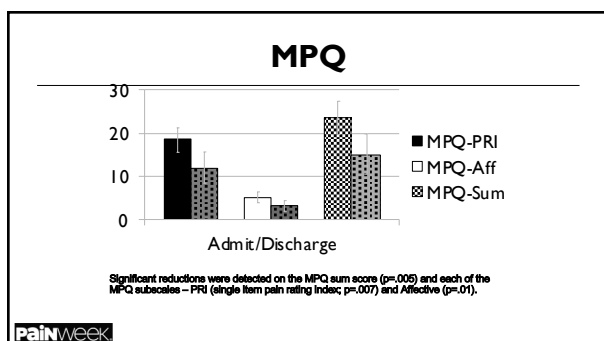
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

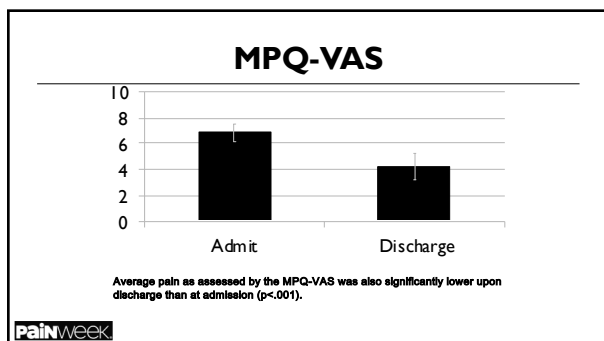
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

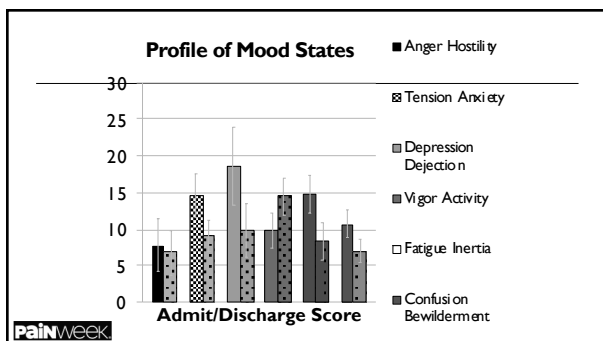
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SCIPP Outcomes

- Significant changes on
  - CESD ( $p < .001$ )
  - MPQ-VAS average pain ( $p < .001$ )
  - MPQ summary score ( $p = .005$ )
  - MPQ pain rating index ( $p = .007$ )
  - MPQ affective score ( $p = .01$ )
  - POMS Tension-Anxiety ( $p = .005$ )
  - POMS Depression-Dejection ( $p = .001$ )
  - POMS Vigor-Activity ( $p = .005$ )
  - POMS Fatigue-Inertia ( $p = .002$ )
  - POMS Confusion-Bewilderment ( $p = .003$ )
  - POMS Total Mood Disturbance ( $p = .01$ )
- No significant difference on
  - POMS Anger-Hostility




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Outpatient Application

- Participation in CBT-based coping skills class
- Concurrent medication reduction
- Consider joint psych-MD appointments




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---