

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE MEDICAL TASK FORCE

Fall 2013

WEBSITE READY FOR YOUR DOWNLOADS

www.sandiegosafeprescribing.org

Now fully loaded with the Medical Task Force products, please visit the site to download all our documents and view video from the September 13th press conference. Share the documents with your colleagues.



SAFE PRESCRIBING KICK OFF

The San Diego County Medical Society hosted the September 13th media event to announce the distribution of the Safe Prescribing handouts and new protocols at emergency departments in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Scheduled at the close of the EMOC meeting, doctors donned their white coats and stood behind the podium to demonstrate solidarity –including Dr. Gerard Demers in uniform from the Naval Medical Center. Coverage was extensive by County News Service CW6, KPBS radio and TV and NBC 7. Here's a link to one of the stories: www.kpbs.org/news/2013/sep/13/san-diego-hospitals-adopt-new-painkiller-policy/

Two-County Endorsements All in Place

Both Medical Societies and Health Departments in San Diego and Imperial Counties, along with the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties have formally approved and placed their logos on the set of protocols we developed as a committee. With all materials posted on sandiegosafeprescribing.org, the focus is now on implementation. We expect to find challenges or barriers, so please use your leadership to troubleshoot and find ways to ensure that your health care system is on board. A unified front will help us succeed, and train patients about what to expect no matter what door they enter.

NEXT MTF MEETING:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Noon / San Diego County Medical Society
5575 Ruffin Road, San Diego

Implementing Prescriber Guidelines and Patient Pain Medicine in Primary Care

Every healthcare system is unique, so be prepared to identify obstacles, troubleshoot and share your experience with others. New feedback from community clinics suggest that the Pain Medicine Agreement come in two parts, a short form to be signed during the appointment, with a long patient education piece to take home. This modification will be an agenda item on our November 8th meeting.

Recent Media Links: <http://www.latimes.com/science/la-sci-fda-pain-drugs-20130911,0,2941007.story>

CURES Data Analysis

The Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force (PDATF) is working with Dr. Lev, Dr. Painter, Deputy Medical Examiner Jon Lucas and County epidemiologist Joshua Smith to analyze the extensive data reports from CURES on San Diego County figures. While the analysis is not complete, data suggest that there are more pills per person, and the pills are stronger in terms of morphine equivalence, across this five year span. There is no way to separate legitimate medication use from diversion or abuse, but the raw numbers should reduce with our new tools to avoid enabling addiction. Did you know that 163,861,371 doses of opioids were prescribed to San Diego County residents in 2012?

We will complete a detailed analysis, comparing San Diego regions and state rates; in addition, we can look at specific medication trends. Once completed, this analysis and data will be shared with the MTF.

CURES System Update

SB809 was passed in September by both the Assembly and Senate, and now awaits Governor Brown's signature. This bill funds the build-out and real-time operational capacity of CURES, primarily through an annual \$6 fee to a variety of healthcare professionals. This CURES-on-steroid system will do a much better job analyzing trends, identifying doctor shoppers and questionable prescribing practices. We want to do more CURES registration in San Diego and are designing ways to make it easier to register, especially for non-affiliated doctors.

Articles of Interest

MTF member Eric McDonald has forwarded two articles of interest. From the American College of Emergency Physicians comes a brief editorial discussing the New York City guidelines. From the Annals of Emergency Medicine is a September 2013 report on dental practice guidelines. As the below box suggests, such guidelines are effective. Both are attached to this email.

Results: Before the guideline, the rate of opioid prescription was 59% (302/515). After implementation, the rate was 42% (65/153). The absolute decrease in rates was 17% (95% confidence interval 7% to 27%) in comparing the 12-month period before and after implementation, the dental pain visit rate decreased to 21 per 1,000 ED visits (95% confidence interval of decrease 2 to 9 visits/1,000).

Conclusion: A performance improvement program involving a departmental prescribing guideline with a reduction in the rate of opioid prescriptions and visits for ED patients presenting with dental pain. *Emerg Med.* 2013;62:237-240.]

Contact Us

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