

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE MEDICAL TASK FORCE

Summer 2013

ENDORSEMENTS IN PLACE!

San Diego & Imperial County

- Health Departments
- County Medical Societies
- County Hospital Association

The documents have been reviewed by health literacy:

- The Pain Agreement is at 5th grade reading level
- The Emergency Guidelines are at 7th grade level.

It's time to help your system begin using the guidelines.



ALL ED PATIENTS TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION AT DISCHARGE

This attached Safe Prescribing handout ideally is given to every single patient at discharge. You can make this part of your standard discharge guidelines. It is available in English and Spanish. On either August 9 or September 13, immediately after the next EMOC meeting, **we are planning for a media event where each ED will collect a 3-month free supply of the Safe Prescribing handout at the Medical Society as we officially launch unroll this Countywide ED initiative.** A representative from each ED is requested to attend this event, dressed in their white coat with hospital logo to pick up their boxes. 225,000 copies are provided courtesy of one of our law enforcement partners. At the end of the 3-month supply, the hospitals will incorporate this handout into their routine printing for the ED's.

To download documents, go to the [San Diego County Medical Society web site](http://www.SanDiegoSafePrescriptions.com) after July 24th.

www.SanDiegoSafePrescriptions.com

“All of our hospitals now can send the same message to every patient in San Diego and Imperial Counties –we prescribe with safety in mind and will not contribute to the abuse of medication” – Roneet Lev

WOMEN MORE AT RISK FOR PRESCRIPTION DEATHS

See attached article from the CDC MMWR. Although more men than women die from prescription overdoses, the percentage increase in deaths since 1999 is higher for women. Deaths have increased 5 fold for women and 3.6 times for men.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE OPIOID DEATHS

There are many different guidelines out there to reduce opioid deaths, including our own San Diego version. Read the attached document for a clinically relevant simple guideline, termed RELIABLE. http://www.acepnews.com/specialty-focus/toxicology/single-article-page/eight-principles-outlined-for-safe-opioid-prescribing/22ef85a25e5a5d8503e72d63e2012694.html?utm_source=MagnetMail&utm_medium=email&utm_term=roneet@cox.net&utm_content=acep130714_finalh

MTF Works with CURES in Sacramento

The task force has worked with the CURES office in Sacramento in assist with SB 805, a law that will upgrade the CURES system. Roneet Lev will participate on the state committee that will make recommendations to the new system. Please contact her if you have any specific suggestions or requests. The CURES office has very generously provided San Diego with specific data. We will soon analyze and report on data from 2008 to 2012 for all opioids, benzodiazepines, and stimulants.

MTF Meets with Walgreens

Members of the PDA Medical Task Force have met with Walgreens District Manager in order to address concerns about extra phone calls to physicians and refused prescriptions. Thank you to Nathan Painter, Pharm.D. CDE and Cheryl Thompson, MD, for their help in this meeting.

Walgreens noted that the DEA has expressed concerns for not checking prescriptions appropriately. So now Walgreens has identified three drugs that require extra scrutiny before filling a prescription: (1) Methadone (2) Hydromorphone, and (3) Oxycodone. Any prescription for these medications require the pharmacist to go through 10 questions:

1. CURES report filed?
2. Photo ID reviewed?
3. Does the store location match the doctor location?
4. Is there any recorded prior history of abuse?
5. Any evidence of Doctor shopping?
6. Is Rx filling on time?
7. Cash, 3rd party, or Discount card?
8. More than 120 tablets?
9. More than 60 tablets paid with cash?
10. On same medication for more than 6 months?

There are no HIPPA concerns when sharing medical information with the pharmacist because the pharmacist shares in the clinical care. Walgreens has 31 stores in San Diego County and say they average only 1 refused Rx per store per week. They say Costco will soon be following the same policy.

Most pharmacies in town are set up to accept controlled substances. The problem is ensuring security on the hospital/ clinic end. That is the reason most of us cannot send controlled substances electronically to pharmacies. The security ruling comes from DEA. We had interesting side conversations such as learning that Permethiine with Codeine Actavist brand is highly abused. One pharmacy in town had "buckets" of this medication and when Walgreens took over, these sales stopped. Apparently the Actavist brand tastes better than the other brands. Hydrocodone Watson brand is more abused than other brands. A red flag is raised when patients ask for a specific brand of medication. There are some legitimate requests for certain brands. For example, fentanyl Mylan Brand sticks better to the skin than other brands.

Contact Us

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