

A physician recalled a recent case from her institution. A patient came to the emergency department in the middle of the night for foot pain that he had for several months. A CURES report showed that he received opioid prescriptions from 12 providers within the past 6 months. No overt external physical abnormalities were noted on his foot. He was told the standard information: "We will give you something for pain today, but for your safety, we cannot give you any prescription. Your prescriptions should be coordinated by your primary care doctor." This patient started screaming for Dilaudid that he insisted he needed. He threatened to get the doctor and the nurse fired. He said, "I got other doctors fired before, and I will get you fired." Sure enough, he wrote a scathing letter to the hospital saying he has never been treated in such a disrespectful manner. The hospital opened a quality review against the doctor and the nurse with claims of being rude, poor bedside manner, and unprofessional behavior. The doctor replied to the accusation, "I would rather be fired, threatened, or blackmailed, than have my prescriptions involved in a patient's death."

San Diego at the National RX Abuse Summit

This year will be the 5th Annual National Rx Abuse Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference is sponsored by Senator Hal Rogers from Kentucky who heads a bipartisan committee about Prescription Drug Abuse. Each year there is an increasing number of members of Congress who attend and present at this 4-day conference. Roneet Lev, MD, will be presenting for the 3rd year. Joining her will be Nathan Painter, UCSD School of Pharmacy, George Scolari of CHG, Dr. Dan Calac of Indian Health Council, and Margaret Mendez from the VA San Diego.

Does your institution back up physicians who promote compassionate safe prescribing, or do they place barriers and promote patient satisfaction above all else? In the above case, the institution agreed that compassionate safe prescribing is a priority and supported the physician. Next time, we hope they will review the chart and a CURES report before sending a quality concern.

Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force Updates and Statewide Prescription Drug Abuse Summit

Angela Goldberg announced that the next **National Take Back Event is scheduled for Saturday, April 30th**. She hopes members will consider ways they can promote information about the event. More info coming soon.

The California Prescription Drug Abuse Summit hosted in San Diego was sponsored by HIDTA in collaboration with the California US Attorneys, DEA, the San Diego County Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force, and Californians for Drug Free Youth. The event was well attended by over 200 participants across the state, including public officials, national speakers, CMA, CHCF, Medical Board, Pharmacy Board, and California Department of Public Health. Speakers included Dr. Andrew Kolodny, CMO of Phoenix House, Melissa Stafford Jones, Regional Director of US HHS Region IX, Dr. David Thomas, NIDA, Marcie Lee Taylor, President and CEO of Partnership for Drug Free Kids, Laura Duffy, US Attorney and others. Power Points and the Executive Summary/Statewide Call to Action for multiple disciplines is available at <http://sandiegorexabusetaaskforce.org/eventsx.html> under Current Events and News (on top).

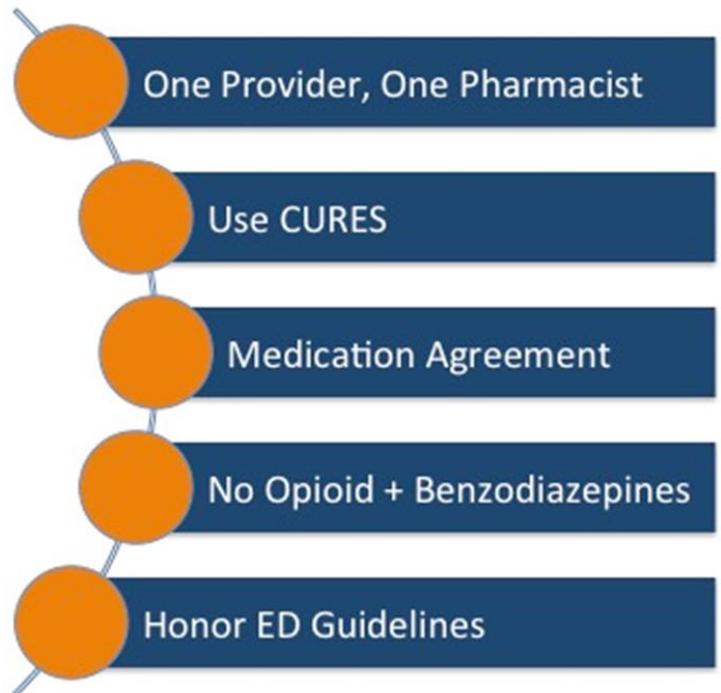
In addition, the Meth Strike Force has just started a new Drug Trend quarterly meeting where narcotic investigators, police, prosecutors and health professionals are exchanging real-time information about emerging trends. Our San Diego Poison Center will be participating and sharing data on drug trends. Anyone interested in participating should contact Angela.

Next Up: Working with Difficult Patients

Members will have an opportunity to discuss challenging cases with experts in primary care and pain management at the next meeting. Please contact Dr. Lev if you have a case you would like to present. Dr. Trebuzio and Dr. Lamantia –both pain specialists –offered to respond and discuss a case at the next meeting. Michelle Lamantia has participated in addiction medicine events that promote this kind of peer consultation and said it is a very helpful model.

One San Diego

The One San Diego Vision for Safe Prescribing, promotes a unified approach to prescribing, whether you are an emergency physician, primary care, pain specialist, surgeon, dentist, psychiatrist, pharmacist, or health plan.



2016 MTF MEETING SCHEDULE

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY AT
5575 RUFFIN ROAD

MEETING QUARTERLY
ON SECOND FRIDAYS AT
12 NOON

- APRIL 8, 2016
- JULY 8, 2016
- OCTOBER 14, 2016



CONTACT INFORMATION

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