

Influencing Policy & Legislation

- Consider policy options to better inform opioid prescribing practices to patients
- Expand access to and use of naloxone – a non-addictive, life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when administered in time. Access to naloxone can be expanded through:
 - Standing orders at pharmacies
 - Distribution through local, community-based organizations
 - Access and use by law enforcement officials
- ***Encourage government funding to establish more addiction clinics and increase access to care for people desiring to quit using***

Changing Organizational Practices

- Promote and support the use of the [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#)
- Implement quality improvement programs in health care systems to increase implementation of recommended prescribing practices
- Move toward universal registration and use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP)
- Make PDMPs easier to use and access
- Make PDMP data more timely
- Expand and improve proactive PDMP reporting to identify and address inappropriate prescribing patterns
- Improve opioid prescribing interventions for insurers and health systems
- Enhance use of evidence-based opioid prescribing guidelines
- Increase access to and quality of addiction treatment services, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), for opioid addiction
- Increase professional training in addiction care.
- Identify opportunities to expand first responder access to naloxone

Fostering Coalitions & Networks

- Promote and support the use of the [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#)
- Help local jurisdictions to put these effective practices to work in communities where drug addiction is common

Educating Providers

- Promote and support the use of the [CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain](#)
- Educate providers that non-opioid therapy is preferred for chronic pain outside of active cancer, palliative, and end-of-life care
- Educate providers to prescribe the lowest possible effective dosage of opioids to reduce risks of opioid use disorder and overdose
- Provide training for basic emergency medical service staff on how to administer naloxone

- Educate healthcare providers regarding the disease of addiction and tools/resources to support addiction treatment

Promoting Community Education

- Improve awareness and share resources about the risks of prescription opioids, and the cost of overdose on patients and families
- Provide training for family and friends of drug users on how to administer naloxone

Strengthening Individual Knowledge & Skills

- Educate patients on the safe storage and disposal of prescription opioids
- Educate the lay public on the disease of addiction and tools/resources to support addiction treatment

References

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prevention/index.html>