

## Resources on the Opioid Epidemic and Guidelines for Prescribing Practices

### ADA, CDC Webinar on Nonopioid Strategies for Managing Pain

The [ADA News](#) (1/11) reported that the ADA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will host a joint webinar on Feb. 14 from 10-11 am Central time “on nonopioid strategies for pain management in order to decrease reliance on prescription opioid pain relievers following dental surgery.” The article reported that “the webinar will provide an overview of the CDC’s treatment for chronic pain recommendations and how those recommendations can be applied to management of acute pain.” To register, visit the [website](#). To help dentists navigate opioid issues in their practices, the ADA Catalog offers the ADA Practical Guide to Substance Use Disorders and Safe Prescribing. From now until March 23, readers can save 15 percent on this and all ADA Catalog products with promo code 18106. To order, visit [ADAcatalog.org](#) or call 1-800-947-4746.

### Battling the Opioid Epidemic in the Dental Office

The American Dental Association is working to combat the opioid crisis by helping dentists understand the potentially harmful impact of the drugs they prescribe in their offices. [This series of webinars](#) discusses ways dentists can reduce opioid abuse, educate patients about the addictive qualities of painkillers and prevent prescription opioid diversion. (You do not have to be an ADA member to access the recordings).

### Campaign Launched to Fight Prescription Opioid Epidemic

The CDC has launched [Rx Awareness \(https://www.cdc.gov/rxawareness/\)](https://www.cdc.gov/rxawareness/), a communication campaign featuring real-life accounts of people recovering from opioid use disorder and people who have lost loved ones to prescription opioid overdose. The campaign aims to increase awareness and knowledge among Americans about the risks of prescription opioids and stop inappropriate use. With the tagline, "It only takes a little to lose a lot," the campaign uses testimonials to educate the public, focusing on the dangers of prescription opioids whether used for medical or non-medical purposes. The campaign materials include videos, audio ads, social media ads, internet banners, web graphics, billboards, and posters.

### CDC Awards \$12 Million to Fight Opioid Epidemic

The CDC announced it is awarding more than \$12 million to 23 states and the District of Columbia to support their responses to the opioid overdose epidemic. The funds will be used to strengthen prevention efforts and better track of opioid-related overdoses. CDC expects to announce additional funding awards for state opioid overdose prevention programs later in the summer. Under the Enhanced State Surveillance of Opioid-Involved Morbidity and Mortality Program, \$7.5 million will go to these 20 additional states: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. Under the Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention for States Program, \$4.8 million will go these additional eight states: Arizona, Delaware,

Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Carolina, and West Virginia. News release:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/p0717-opioid-funding.html>

## **CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016**

CDC [report](#) and [website](#) on opioid prescribing practices.

### **Utah Launches 'Red-Sticker' Opioid Abuse Campaign**

Utah pharmacists have started putting red stickers on bottles of opioid pain relievers that warn patients about the risk of overdose and addiction as part of a new awareness campaign to combat abuses and deaths. The Utah Department of Health's campaign is intended to encourage dialogue between pharmacists and patients about opioid risks. The initiative is a collaborative effort by the health department, the Utah Pharmacy Association and the Utah Department of Commerce.

### **June 7 Webinar Will Focus on Legal, Ethical Issues of Prescribing Opioids**

The [ADA News](#) (5/10) reports that the ADA will host the Legal and Ethical Issues of Opioid Prescribing for Acute Dental Pain webinar on June 7 from 2-3 pm Central time. During the live webinar session, Dr. Richard S. Harold, a dentist and associate clinical professor in the Diagnosis and Health Promotion department at the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, will discuss the history of pain management and dentistry's role in addressing the prescription drug epidemic. In addition, the webinar will provide an overview of the basics of choosing proper analgesics and background on addiction and substance abuse problems to help dentists manage and counsel high-risk patients. Participants in the webinar session are eligible for one hour of continuing education. To register, visit the [website](#). For more information on HPI publications, please visit [ADA.org/HPI](http://ADA.org/HPI). If you have any questions, contact us at [hpi@ada.org](mailto:hpi@ada.org). And be sure to follow us on Twitter [@ADAHPI!](https://twitter.com/ADAHPI)

### **Opioid Prescribing in Dental Medicine: Balancing Our Compassion for Patients with Social Responsibility**

April 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. (CT). While American society's "war on opioids" has focused primarily on physicians, data indicate that dentists are also frequent prescribers. Few would argue that opioids are not necessary in dental practice. However, a considerable percentage of abused opioids originate in dental practices. This lecture will focus on strategies for dentists to allow them to prescribe, when necessary, in a safe manner – i.e. one that provides their patients with adequate and appropriate analgesia while simultaneously safeguarding against misuse, abuse, overdose, and diversion. Participants will earn one hour of CE. [Register today.](#)

### **How to Discuss Safe Use, Storage and Disposal of Medicines, Including Opioids with Your Dental Patients Webcast**

March 29, 2017, 2:00 – 3:00 PM (CT). Join the American Dental Association for this free webinar and learn why it is important to have conversations with your patients on the safe use, storage and disposal of prescription and nonprescription medication. This discussion will include:

- Tips on how to teach your patients the benefits and potential risks of medication.
- How to discuss misuse of medication by the patient or family member/guest.
- Tools for proper storage and safe disposal of unused medicines.

Participants in the live webinar session are eligible for one hour of continuing education. [Register today.](#)

## **Public Health Foundation’s Population Health Approach to Address the Opioid Crisis**

[Opioid Response Planning Guide](#) – developed by PHF experts with step-by-step actions on one page to begin work immediately toward sustainable solutions for your community.

*Draft* [Opioid Population Health Driver Diagram](#) – used by health departments, healthcare organizations, and others as a place to start a conversation about actions that your community can take.

## **Food and Drug Administration Now Offers Consumer Page On Opioids**

The Food and Drug Administration has a [new consumer page](#) listing questions for patients to ask their physicians, dentists, and other healthcare professionals before taking opioid painkillers. The new page also offers tips on opioid prescription storage and disposal.

## **Results of an ASTDD State Query on Opioid Efforts**

### **Oregon Materials**

Here are the materials I mentioned. One is a printable poster that shows our newly-adopted dental prescribing guidelines, and the other is a tri-fold brochure. Also a link to our state public health opioid page. This is all just FYI, in case you have a use for it. We’re also just about to put up a state oral health page which will be a smoother way to find links to all of our oral health work.

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/SUBSTANCEUSE/OPIOIDS/Documents/oregon-recommended-opioid-guidelines-dentists.pdf>

<https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/1e9402.pdf>

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/SUBSTANCEUSE/OPIOIDS/Pages/providers.aspx>

### **Alaska**

We pointed out several times that dentists should be a focus of efforts - source with 3rd molar extractions and of concern with the usual age group for those procedures. Also, a source with ED visits for dental related conditions. The Health Officer is the lead for the state and never got any feedback from him - but dentists are included in those that have to check and report prescriptions on the database they have set up. According to the Alaska Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (SMAP), they are still early in their provider education work. The only dentist-specific effort/strategy she is aware of is the Alaska Dental Society’s [prescribing guidelines](#), which SMAP did not have a hand in. They promote those on their [“before you prescribe” opioids education page](#). Dentists and oral surgeons were included in the following broad-based provider/pharmacist education efforts:

- They are doing a key informant interview project to understand prescriber and pharmacist use of the PDMP (and suggestions for improving use), prescribing and dispensing practices, contributing environmental factors prescribers/dispensers have observed on a local level, recommendations for improved public education. They included dentists and oral surgeons who have DEA licenses to prescribe opioids.
- Right now they have materials [like this brochure](#) available to prescribers and pharmacists. They are working with community partners to help distribute.
- To educate providers on recent opioids legislation and encourage PDMP participation, documents like this [Controlled Substance Legislative Update](#) were sent to all licensed providers/pharmacists. The boards also promoted similar information.
- They are learning more about academic detailing and we're considering that as an option for provider education/outreach.

### **America Samoa**

Governor Lolo Moliga had set up the American Samoa Drug Control Commission to address all illicit drugs and opioid misuse. Next week the ASDCC is launching a week-long event, known as the "Red Ribbon Campaign against Drugs," a territory-wide event supported all health agencies are part of this event. Health booths manned by all AS Government agencies to promote drug control and prevention targeting school children and their families. A new piece of law was introduced recently to the legislatures to test all ASG employees annually for drugs. The only hospital, LBJ Medical Center, has a program to assist about 20 identified individuals in the territory with chronic use of opioids and are assisting them to wean them off slowly and to utilize less addictive painkillers. The Department of Human and Social Services received 250K from SAMHSA to assist with this crisis. They are targeting school children and providing preventive outreach education activities. I will be providing dental screening next week Tuesday at our Public Health booths at the AS Drug Control Red Campaign Event. MCH Program is providing a wheel of fortune game but instead of money on the wheel its negative impact of tobacco smoking and drug abuse. Other programs in our department are also providing other games as well as a chamber of horror (Halloween theme) to showcase all our education materials with negative effects (posters, models etc.).

### **Arkansas**

Here in Arkansas the SOHP is not directly involved. The Department is developing programs for substance abuse in regards to education and prevention. They are also working on an educational program aimed at medical personnel to address prescribing practices. During the past General Assembly a legislative law was passed that all prescribers (including veterinarians) are to register and utilize the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). This is new for dentists and there has been push back but it seems to be gaining momentum to help providers avoid the drug shopping patients.

## Colorado

- Part of the Provider Education group for the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention (<http://www.corxconsortium.org/>), which includes efforts to provide CE to dentists on managing dental pain.
- Waiting to see if health department will get FDA data about prescribers of opioids in order to "hot spot" high prescribing dentists for education and interventions.
- Supporting spread of 2014 Quad Board [Policy for Prescribing and Dispensing Opioids](#) through contractors and annual meeting presentations.

## Connecticut

Here is the recent legislation that has passed in Connecticut. One includes prescribing practices. The CT State Dental Association has information on their website. The Office of Oral Health did include a session on Opioid use in Connecticut at the July 2017 Across the Ages Interprofessional Summit.

Opioids and Access to Overdose Reversal Drugs, 2016, P.A. 16-43

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2016/ACT/pa/pdf/2016PA-00043-R00HB-05053-PA.pdf>

Preventing Prescription Opioid Diversion and Abuse, 2017, P.A. 17-131

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/act/pa/pdf/2017PA-00131-R00HB-07052-PA.pdf>

## Georgia

In Georgia the Dental Association has been traveling to study clubs to talk about prescribing. Since all dentists are not members I requested the Board of Dentistry post the information below on their website. You can see that posted if you go to their site. GA Dept. of Public Health has a new policy for registration of anyone writing prescriptions for opioids. <https://gdna.georgia.gov/georgia-prescription-drug-monitoring-program-ga-pdmp>

## Idaho

We haven't started anything officially yet in Idaho, but we have a new Prescription Drug Overdose Program in our bureau that I am looking forward to working with in the coming years.

## Iowa

Iowa is in the early phase of developing a work plan.

## Kansas

We are working with our chronic disease program to include dental providers and oral health messages into their projects. KS received approximately \$1 million for one year to address the

opioid crisis. We have recently participated in a 2-day summit with the Secretary and Lt. Governor to address this issue in KS with a broad range of health providers.

### **Michigan**

Is working on a fact sheet with the prescription drug/opioid unit to share with dentists.

### **Minnesota**

We are working with MDH opioid colleagues and external partners to present on opioid and oral health during a conference on 11/3.

### **Missouri**

Missouri has a Department wide effort going on. I have presented at an Opioid summit and written an article for the MDA Journal but nothing in my Office of Dental Health that is more organized than that.

### **New York**

We have been providing TA, (in the form of answering questions when providers call about the mandate) and we participate in meetings (when invited) to discuss the agencies efforts. We have had a proposal submitted to DOH Office of Narcotics to study dentists' prescribing practices, but at this point it's a no go. We are really at the stage of helping them recognize the significant role dentists play in this issue.

### **North Carolina**

NC is in the early stages of:

1. working with our dental schools to influence their education,
2. working with our oral surgeon's society to address their pain management practices, and
3. getting opioid information directed toward training the entire dental team (not just dentists).

### **Oregon**

Kellie Skenandore (dental program manager in our Medicaid Division) and I are the team from OR selected for the CHCS State Oral Health Leadership Institute this year, and our project has been on the topic of opioid prescribing in dentistry. Our goals are to 1) increase awareness among dentists regarding their roles in the bigger opioid issue, and 2) increase registration for and usage of our PDMP. We created "responsible and compassionate" opioid prescribing guidelines for dentists (or acute prescribers in general), and a tri-fold brochure explaining the issue and how to use the PDMP—below are the links to these two publications. Our points are that dentists DO play a role in the opioid issue, especially since we're the leading prescribers of opioids to young people (think wisdom tooth age), and for many, a Rx from a dentist is their

first exposure to opioids, which often is all it takes for a person to learn that they like them and want more. NSAIDs can be at least as effective as opioids to treat dental pain.

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/SUBSTANCEUSE/OPIOIDS/Documents/oregon-recommended-opioid-guidelines-dentists.pdf>

<https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/1e9402.pdf>

### **South Carolina**

Our Advisory Council has established a sub-committee to work on this issue. We are part of a Bureau team working on plans to address it through the agency.

### **Vermont**

Our SOHP is working with the Health Department's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAP) to disseminate resources to help medical and dental health care providers comply with our new prescribing legislation. We're also involved in the very beginning stages of a quality improvement project aimed at providing dental care for people in recovery.