Opioid Initiative Wave I
Harm Reduction in the ED
Harm Reduction
IN THE ED
Science > Stigma
Understanding > Judgement
Doing Better > Status Quo

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COLORADO ACEP
2017 Opioid Prescribing & Treatment Guidelines

Confronting the Opioid Epidemic in Colorado’s Emergency Departments

Alternatives to Opioids for Painful Conditions (ALTO)
Limiting Opioids from the ED
Treatment of Addicted Patients and Referral

Harm Reduction

ADDICTION:

“If I don’t stop I know I’m going to die.”

ADDICT. BAD PERSON. A CHOICE. A MORAL FAILING. WASTE OF TIME
HOW DO WE FEEL ABOUT DRUG USERS?

ANGRY
BURNED OUT
FRUSTRATED
ANNOYED
ADDICTION: A MEDICAL DISEASE.

DRUG SEEKING IS COMPULSIVE. DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. ADDICTION > CONSEQUENCE.

PHYSIOLOGIC BRAIN CHANGES

RELAPSING & REMITTING.

USE TO:
GET HIGH
FEEL NORMAL
NOT FEEL SICK

A MEDICAL DISEASE.

ENDORPHINS
DYNORPHINS
DOPAMINE
REWARD SYSTEM
MALFUNCTION

BRAIN FAILURE!
WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT IVD USE:

OVERDOSE
HEPATITIS C&B
HIV / AIDS
ABSCESS
NECROTIZING FASCIITIS
ENDOCARDITIS
EPIDURAL ABSCESS
DEATH
Harm reduction is -

- **PRACTICAL.**
- Reducing negative consequences.
- Respect patients & their choices.
- **NO Stigma.**
- Keep Safe and Reduce Risk.
- Until ready for RECOVERY.
HARM REDUCTION EXAMPLES
WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW?

EVERY EMERGENCY CLINICIAN SHOULD KNOW HOW TO INJECT HEROIN & IV DRUGS. STERILE TECHNIQUE. SOUND ADVICE.
PATIENT 1: DRUG OVERDOSE

WHY PEOPLE OVERDOSE:
- QUALITY
- TOLERANCE / LOW TOLERANCE
- MIXING

PREVENTING OVERDOSE:
- NEVER USE ALONE
- NEW PRODUCT (TESTER SHOT)
- NARCAN 4 ALL
- DOES YOUR ED DISPENSE NARCAN?
CONSEQUENCE OF STANDARD CARE...
PATIENT 2: “I WAS BIT BY A SPIDER”

PREVENTING BACTERIAL INFXNS:
- HOW DO YOU SHOOT? LICKING?
  WATER SUPPLY?
- NEW MATERIALS EACH INJECTION?
- ALCOHOL PADS?
- COOKING YOUR PRODUCT
- WHERE ARE YOU INJECTING
CONSEQUENCE OF STANDARD CARE...
PATIENT 3: YOUR FAVORITE NURSE. PANICKED. NEEDLE STICK INJURY.
KNOWN IVDU. MULT VISITS.

PREVENTING VIRAL INFECTION:
- Don't share needles is insufficient
- Hep C Danger >>>> HIV
- DON'T SHARE ANYTHING!
- Referral to Syringe exchange!
- No Syringe Exchange - Advocate for one
- Supervised Injection facilities – (AMA, ACEP Support pilots
CONSEQUENCE OF STANDARD CARE...

Scott County, Indiana
Pt 4. LONG TERM OPIOID USER. WITHDRAWING. WANTS TO QUIT. BROUGHT BY FAMILY.

“I can’t do anything for you”
- Referral if available
- Buprenorphine (are you a prescriber?)
- Naloxone for home
- Encouragement
- MYTH: Opioid Withdrawal is not life threatening.
SUCCESS
WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT LOOKS LIKE

SUCCESS
WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE
HARM REDUCTION & ED ETHOS – ARE THE SAME – PUT THE PATIENT FIRST. WHAT DO YOU SEE?
For More Information

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