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Increasing Nursing Awareness and Education During an Opioid Crisis

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BACKGROUND

- Many patients health histories include opiate addiction
- Clinical nurses have an ethical duty to treat pain in all patients
- There is a link between prescribed opiates and rise of illicit drug overdoses
- Nurses are essential educators for patient population and must have the knowledge and skills to intervene with patients at risk for opiate abuse

PICO

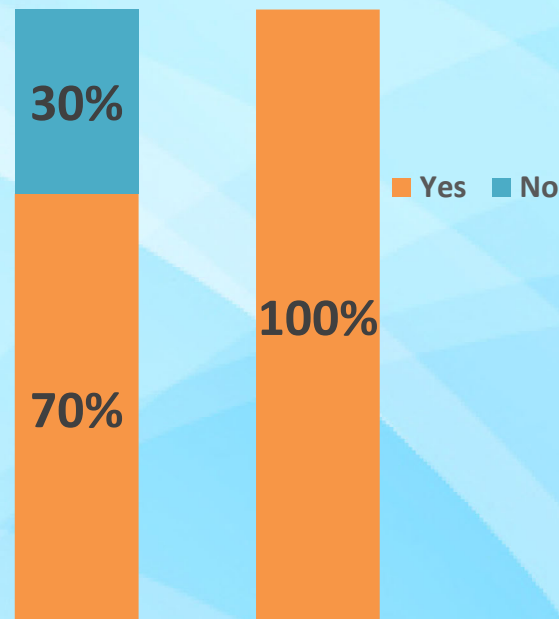
- **P-** Nurses on 6K administering opiates
- **I-** Implementing a visual cue attached to computer as a reminder to educate on opiates
- **C-** No visual cue
- **O-** Providing patient education on opiates to increase safety and understanding

EVIDENCE

- 45% of people who use heroin report their first opioid exposure to be a prescription opioid analgesic (Compton & Blancher, 2020)
- Current nursing curriculum does not dictate the amount of emphasis devoted to prevalent topics of pain and addiction (Compton & Blancher, 2020).
- Elderly patients taking multiple medications are at great risk from adverse events from drug interactions involving opiates (Naples et al, 2016)

OUTCOMES

Compliance with Opioid Pain Medicine Management Education



Pre-Education Post-Education

Opioid Pain Medicine Management

Opioid pain medicines are strong medicines that are used to treat bad or very bad pain. When you take them for a short time, they can help you:

- Sleep better.
- Do better in physical therapy.
- Feel better during the first few days after you get hurt.
- Recover from surgery.

Only take these medicines if a doctor says that you can. You should only take them for a short time. This is because opioids can be hard to stop taking (they are addictive). The longer you take opioids, the harder it may be to stop taking them (opioid use disorder).

What are the risks?

Opioids can cause problems (side effects). Taking them for more than 3 days raises your chance of problems, such as:

- Trouble pooping (constipation).
- Feeling sick to your stomach (nausea).
- Vomiting.
- Feeling very sleepy.
- Confusion.
- Not being able to stop taking the medicine.
- Breathing problems.

Taking opioids for a long time can make it hard for you to do daily tasks. It can also put you at risk for:

- Car accidents.
- Depression.
- Suicide.
- Worse effects

IMPLEMENTATION

- Pre-education chart audits completed July 2020 to determine compliance with documentation of patient education related to opioid safety
- Education of RNs to document patient education on opiates in electronic medical record
- Visual cue attached to RN computers at server area as a reminder to document opiate education
- Post-education chart audits (similar to pre-education audits) completed in September 2020

NEXT STEPS

- Meet with 6K PCS to discuss chart review results
- Attach visual reminder to each computer in the patient rooms on 6K
- Further education for RNs on caring for patients with opioid addiction

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