



CPESN Implementation Guide: Opioid Stewardship – Core Focus Strategies

Care Delivery Objective:

Safe, judicious, and optimal use of opioids with our pharmacy's patients so that they may achieve therapeutic objectives aligned with their optimal health and well-being.

STEP ONE: Identify and Document Patients on Opioid Prescriptions

- Identify patients who have filled an opioid prescription within the last 3 months (utilize patients who are currently enrolled in medication synchronization)
- Document opioid indication within pharmacy management system if possible.
- Set a documentation goal (e.g., create an eCare Plan for 5% of opioid prescriptions each month)

STEP TWO: Determine Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) and check the PDMP for Each Patient Receiving an Opioid Prescription

- Check the PDMP in order to have an accurate list of current controlled substances.
- Utilize an [MME Calculator \(click here\)](#), your prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP), and/or features of your pharmacy management system.
- Note patients with an MME greater than 50 MME/daily for qualifying for naloxone.

STEP THREE: Increase Overall Naloxone Dispensing and Promote Safe Use

- Determine if a patient is a candidate for naloxone.
 - **Naloxone Candidate:**
 - **≥ 50 MME/daily**
 - **Have an opioid prescription while also smoking; have a respiratory illness (COPD, asthma, sleep apnea, etc.)**
 - **Use alcohol and take a benzodiazepine, sedative, and/or antidepressant.**
 - **Have an opioid prescription & known or suspected concurrent alcohol use**
 - **Undergoing opioid detoxification or mandatory abstinence program**
 - **Entering a methadone maintenance treatment plan (for addiction or pain)**
 - **Enrolled in prescription lock in programs.**
 - **Have a history of opioid intoxication or overdose, or have a history of substance abuse or nonmedical opioid use**

- It can be beneficial to utilize a bag tag system or an alert within the pharmacy software to identify eligible patients. This helps to remind the staff that the patient should be counseled on naloxone.
- Counsel eligible patients/caregivers on the importance of having naloxone on hand. Be sure to use respectful language.
- If the patient is interested in receiving naloxone, be sure to document and share the information with the prescribing provider. Template [fax sheet](#) that can be used.
- Safe use, storage, and disposal resources: Click [here](#).

STEP FOUR: Document Opioid Stewardship Services with Emphasis on eCare Plan

- Documentation is key and encouraged for the eCare Plan.
- Include relevant interventions by using SNOMED codes within the documentation.
- Below is a table of possible interventions and the corresponding SNOMED codes.
- Test eCare Plan Documentation Demonstrations: Click [here](#).
- Template eCare plan documentation form for Core Strategies: Click [HERE](#).
 - May also be used as paper documentation and bag tag reminders.

Encounter Reason	SNOMED Code
Opioid medication review	452861000124102
Core Focus Strategies	
Intervention	SNOMED Code
Review of prescription drug monitoring program record	461621000124108
Naloxone therapy	460711000124104
Education about take home naloxone for opiate overdose intervention	718021000
Naloxone therapy refused	460721000124107
Education about safe disposal of medication	453721000124108
Special Focus Strategies	
Intervention	SNOMED Code
Pain management education	370848006
Implementation of alternate methods of pain control	370821005
Education on non-Opioid pain management	459571000124101
The process of creating a plan for pain management	712556004
Implementation of pain guidelines	370823008
Documentation of pain medication action plan	433131000124106
Patient Contracting	386385007
Assessment of risk for opioid abuse	454281000124100
Assessment using visual analog pain scale	445719003
Assessment using risk index for overdose or serious opioid-induced respiratory depression scale	459741000124104

Resources

- **CPESN Quality Assurance Standard:** Click [HERE](#).

- Workflow Wednesday Webinar: Opioid Stewardship (Role of Technician) – **Appointment-Based Model**
 - One-Pager: Click [HERE](#).
 - Recording: Click [HERE](#).

- Workflow Wednesday Webinar: Opioid Stewardship (Role of Technician) – **Patient Engagement**
 - One-Pager: Click [HERE](#).
 - Recording: Click [HERE](#).

- Workflow Wednesday Webinar: Opioid Stewardship (Role of Technician) – **Practice Management Engagement**
 - One-Pager: Click [HERE](#).
 - Recording: Click [HERE](#).

- Workflow Wednesday Webinar: Opioid Stewardship (Role of Technician) – **Business Engagement**
 - One-Pager: Click [HERE](#).
 - Recording: Click [HERE](#).