



Reducing Postoperative Opioid Prescribing

Why Postoperative Opioid Prescribing?



Location

Opioid-related deaths in Wisconsin consistently exceed national averages. In 2018, an estimated 1 in 6 Wisconsin adults used a prescribed opioid. Postoperative pain is the most common reason for opioid prescriptions (35.6 percent), followed by back pain (14.6 percent).



Evidence-based guidelines have impact

There is evidence that surgeons overprescribe opioids after surgical procedures, leading to unused opioids available for diversion into the community.



Prevent diversion of opioids into communities

Evidence-based guidelines are effective for reducing opioid prescribing after surgery while providing adequate postoperative pain management.

The Problem

- Opioid overdoses are a leading cause of death in Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin's age-adjusted, per capita rate of opioid-related deaths (14.5 per 100,000 in 2018) consistently exceeds national averages.
- The most common path to opioid addiction is access to legally prescribed opioid pain medications. Surgeons are among the most common sources of opioid prescriptions.
- Existing prescription monitoring tools such as the Physician Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) do not provide benchmarked data regarding prescribing practices or long term data about patients' continued opioid use after surgery.
- Without these data, surgeons cannot make informed decisions about their own prescribing practices or advocate for change within their own communities.

How can SCW improve opioid prescribing practices?

- Provide surgeons with confidential, benchmarked performance reports using existing administrative data describing their opioid prescribing practices after common surgical procedures.
- Distribute best practices and guidelines for perioperative pain management and opioid prescribing.
- Analyze opioid prescription fills following surgical procedures in Wisconsin to identify further opportunities for education and prescription reduction.
- Create a platform for both in-person and virtual collaborative learning to discuss and refine best practices for perioperative pain management and reduce unnecessary opioid prescriptions.

Interested in participating?

- We welcome participation by surgeons, nurses, quality improvement specialists, and others involved in the care of surgical patients.
- To receive a benchmarked performance report, a Participating Hospital/Facility Agreement must be signed.
- For more information, please contact us: info@scwisconsin.org or (608) 263-3381