

PSW Pain Management Clinical Pocket Toolkit

by Marshall Johnson, PharmD, Emily Bollom, PharmD

The opioid epidemic is a major challenge facing our nation today and the state of Wisconsin is no exception. Since 2015, the rate of prescription painkiller overdoses has increased by 238% among Wisconsinites ages 10-24.¹ Providing education and resources to support healthcare professionals is essential to ensure this issue is addressed with knowledge and understanding.

The need to better understand the opioid epidemic and provide resources to better equip

pharmacists in Wisconsin is a primary focus of the Pharmacy Advancement Leadership Team (PALT) for the 2018-2019 year. PALT members are comprised of administrative pharmacy residents from across the state of Wisconsin. This group focuses on select priorities, annually, to make contributions to the advancement of pharmacy practice within the state. Currently, the PALT group is working to develop tools that will expand the role of the pharmacist in combating the opioid epidemic in the state of Wisconsin.

The PALT group envisions this resource will provide an outline for all practice settings to assist pharmacists and other practitioners in their roles surrounding opioid stewardship.

The current pain management resources available through PSW are primarily centered around the pocket toolkit that provides information on pain assessment, treatment strategies, common opioid and non-opioid medications, adverse effects with management, and other clinical pearls designed to assist pharmacists in a variety of practice settings.

Additional resources, including information on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), are available in the PSW Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Education Toolkit located in the Professional Resource section of the PSW website.

Revisions to the pain management toolkit provide new guidance to pharmacists on implementing and improving opioid stewardship activities within their practice

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site and organization. Methods to achieve these objectives include the adoption of newer recommendations regarding pain management, more extensive naloxone prescribing and patient information, and provision of resources to help pharmacists through the process of difficult conversations with patients regarding their pain management and opioid prescriptions. The pocket toolkit will continue to remain concise and act as a convenient resource to pharmacists in all practice settings.

The toolkit is set to be released in 2019 and will be available on the PSW website at <http://www.pswi.org/PSW-Store/toolkits>. Stay tuned to learn more about the updates and how you can obtain a copy of the revised pocket toolkit.

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Acknowledgements: PSW and PALT would like to recognize and honor the memory of Cindy Gaston, PharmD, BCPS, an original author of the Pain Management Pocket Toolkit.

References

1. Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Available at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/index.htm>. Accessed October 17, 2018.

