

Margolis-FDA Workshop Discussion Guide: Identifying Key Competencies for Opioid Prescriber Education

April 4, 2022 | 1:00-5:00 p.m. ET

April 5, 2022 | 1:00-4:10 p.m. ET

Discussion Questions: Day One

Examining Core Competencies for Opioid Prescriber Education

Key competencies and strategies for effectively managing pain and recognizing and treating substance use disorders (SUDs) identified by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and National Academies of Medicine (NAM) Opioid Action Collaborative will be presented. Following the presentation, panelists will discuss basic knowledge and competencies required to support providers of all types for treating and monitoring patients with pain, and how these core competencies may be integrated into opioid prescriber education efforts.

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you define the concept of core competencies for opioid prescribers and other healthcare providers who help manage patients with pain?
2. What are key skills, knowledge, and competencies that should be considered core competencies for opioid prescribers and team members? How have these core competencies shifted with the changing landscape of the opioid and substance use crisis?
3. Are there particular competencies more relevant for certain provider types or specialties? How do these align with or diverge from core competencies that all providers should be taught?
4. Do providers generally have the skills and knowledge necessary for these core competencies? How well do the REMS Blueprint and other prescriber educational content address them?

Professional Practice Gaps in SUD and Pain Management and Related Gaps in Current Prescriber Education

Following an overview of existing professional practice gaps and current educational content for healthcare professionals based on the recent NAM report *Educating Together, Improving Together: Harmonizing Interprofessional Approaches to Address the Opioid Epidemic*, panelists will discuss existing gaps in provider knowledge and competencies for management of pain and SUDs that may be addressed through educational efforts.

Discussion Questions:

1. Based on your experience, what necessary knowledge and skills related to pain management and opioid analgesics might prescribers and other providers be lacking? How might these differ by provider type or by specialty?
2. Does current prescriber education reflect the latest best practices for opioid analgesic prescribing and care for OUD and SUDs? Are providers generally familiar with these best practices?
3. How do gaps in prescriber and provider knowledge and practice affect patients? Do prescribers have sufficient training and skills in communicating with patients, and communicating inter-

professionally with other providers about pain care options, including opioid analgesic medications, and treatments for OUD?

4. What can be done to improve providers' abilities to recognize and address practice gaps? How can prescriber education be a part of a culture of quality improvement?

Discussion Questions: Day Two

Identifying Lessons Learned from Provider Education and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Initiatives

This panel discussion will highlight promising federal, state, or health system initiatives that have been successful in expanding provider knowledge and addressing practice gaps related to pain management and SUD treatment. Panelists will discuss key elements of success and how lessons learned can be integrated into the Opioid Analgesic REMS Education Blueprint.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are key components or lessons learned from successful provider education efforts at the national, state, or health system level related to opioids, pain management, and SUD?
2. Building on yesterday's discussion on professional practice gaps, how have these initiatives helped address professional practice gaps identified in Day 1?
3. What have been challenges and barriers to scaling effective educational interventions?
4. What are the types of policy, legal, or operational efforts are needed to support the goals of prescriber education? How can we think about prescriber education from a systems perspective?
5. Have lessons learned from these efforts been shared between organizations? Are there further opportunities for interprofessional and intergovernmental collaborations to improve provider education?

Future Directions and Next Steps for Shaping Prescriber Education Efforts

A panel of experts will discuss the current and future role of the FDA Opioid Analgesic REMS educational program in addressing evolving needs in prescriber education. They will also consider ways in which FDA can collaborate with federal partners, licensing boards, accreditation organizations, and other healthcare stakeholders to address remaining educational and practice gaps and support targeted education across settings and provider types.

Discussion Questions:

1. As the nature of the opioid and substance use crisis has changed, what gaps in prescriber education and practice have become more critical and what core competencies have become more relevant? How have stakeholder organizations worked to adapt to these changes?
2. What existing interprofessional and intergovernmental collaborations are working to improve opioid prescriber education?
3. Where are there further opportunities for alignment and harmonization in the content of prescriber education initiatives, especially as telehealth expands providers' abilities to deliver care across state lines?
4. How can FDA most effectively further efforts to harmonize and improve prescriber education?