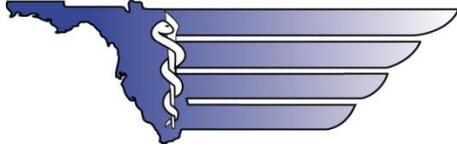


Florida College of Emergency Physicians



A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
3717 South Conway Road • Orlando, FL 32812
(407) 281-7396 • FAX (407) 281-4407
(800) 766-6335 • www.fcep.org

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RATIONAL PRESCRIBING OF OPIOIDS GUIDELINES AND CLEARINGHOUSE

While relieving pain and suffering has always been a primary goal of the emergency physician, there is also a concurrent duty to limit the personal and societal harm that can result from prescription drug misuse and abuse.

Prescription drug abuse, especially opioid abuse, is the fastest growing drug abuse problem in the United States. The sales of opioid analgesics quadrupled between 1999 and 2010.

In a parallel trend there has been a startling rise in unintentional drug overdoses and related deaths since the 1990s. The significant increase in opioid related deaths has raised the concern of many. The CDC has labeled prescription drug overdoses a "US Epidemic" and the FDA has proposed education programs for prescribers.

State efforts to address this issue include the establishment of statewide ED opioid prescribing guidelines, such as those developed in Washington State by the Washington chapter of ACEP.

National ACEP is currently drafting a Clinical Policy to address the prescribing of Opioids for adult patients in the ED. Many individual EDs and emergency physician groups have also adopted their own opioid prescribing guidelines in an attempt to provide ED solutions to this very complex public health problem.

As part of Florida's efforts to combat prescription drug abuse, new legislative requirements were passed in its prescription drug bill **HB 7095**. With the recent passage of this bill, many emergency departments in Florida began to institute their own guidelines concerning ED opioid prescribing.

In response to this trend, the **Florida College of Emergency Physicians** felt it beneficial to establish an online clearinghouse to display these different approaches propagating throughout the state.

The intent is to help ED's improve the quality and safety of pain care. By sharing information, Florida's ED's can reduce the inappropriate use of opioids, empower and educate patients in their safe use and preserve the vital role of the ED to treat patients with emergent medical conditions.