

APPROPRIATE NARCOTIC PRESCRIBING: A BOARD PERSPECTIVE

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Topics & Objectives

- Review Arizona Board of Nursing Statistics regarding NPs
- Identify common violations of the NPA by NP prescribers
- Examine creative drug trafficking techniques
- Discuss the Standards of Care in prescribing scheduled medications



Arizona Board of Nursing Statistics

Registered Nurses	72,040
Nurse Practitioners	3,627
Complaints RN/LPN	978
Complaints NPs	148

Arizona Board of Nursing Statistics

2010

⦿ Opened

75

- (2.15% of NP population)

⦿ Resulted in discipline

7

⦿ Revoked or suspended

2

⦿ Dismissed

17

Reasons for Dismissal

- ⦿ Include but not limited to:
 - Unable to substantiate
 - Anonymous complaint with insufficient information
 - Allegations retracted
 - Allegations that are retaliatory
 - Single or time limited minor practice issues
 - Minor injury or minimal risk of harm
 - Personality disputes
 - Unfair business practices related to billing or fee disputes

Common Violations of the NPA

- ⦿ Lack of education
- ⦿ Rx for self or family
- ⦿ Beyond scope
- ⦿ No assessment
- ⦿ No Documentation
- ⦿ Failure to consult



Common Violations of the NPA

⦿ Pain Management Agreements

- Update every year
- Broken agreement
- “Its only marijuana”
- Stolen prescriptions
- Going out of town
- Early refills

Common Source of Complaints

- ⦿ Patient or family
 - ⦿ Other medical provider
 - ⦿ Pharmacist
 - ⦿ Colleague
 - ⦿ Supervisor
-
- ⦿ May be prompted by adverse outcome

Creative Drug Trafficking

- ◎ Street cost
 - \$1 per mg
- ◎ Pill scraping
- ◎ Pill warehouse
 - Rent a pill
- ◎ Scheduled pain



Standards of Care

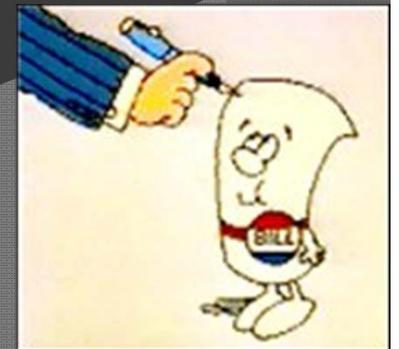
- Know what you are prescribing!
- Advisory opinions
- Board of Pharmacy
- Urine drug screens
- Serum levels
- Old records
- Diagnostic lab



ADVISORY OPINION

THE USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN

- “Nurse practitioners should have sufficient knowledge or consultation to make such judgments for their patients”



GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT CARE WHEN PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR CHRONIC PAIN

Evaluation of the Patient

- H&P
- Psycho-social assessment
- Periodic UDS
- Ability/willingness to maintain control and safety of controlled drugs

Evaluation

- ◎ Pain assessment and H&P
- ◎ The evaluation should include:
 - nature/intensity
 - current & past tx for pain
 - underlying or coexisting diseases or conditions
 - effect on physical & psychological function
 - hx of substance abuse
 - indications for controlled substance
 - health history corroborated

R4-19-511. Prescribing and Dispensing Authority; Prohibited Acts

- (D) (5) **Prescribing**, dispensing, or furnishing a prescription drug or a prescription-only device to a person **unless the nurse has examined the person** and established a professional relationship



GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT CARE WHEN PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR CHRONIC PAIN

Treatment Plan

- Developed for management of chronic pain
 - state objectives by which therapeutic success can be evaluated
- Improvement in pain intensity
- Improvement in function
- Proposed diagnostic evaluations
- Potential exclusion criteria
 - hx of chemical dependency, psychiatric disorder
- Exploration of other treatments

GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT CARE WHEN PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR CHRONIC PAIN

Informed Consent

Pain treatment agreement

- specifically states compliance
- consequences of non-compliance
- discontinued in a safe manner and referred for appropriate treatment should it be revealed that they are abusing or diverting drugs

GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT CARE WHEN PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR CHRONIC PAIN

Ongoing Assessment

Consultation

Documentation

Counting & Destroying Post-Dated Rx

Referral for Abuse Problems

Contact Information

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