

# Pharmacist-Driven Evaluation on the Use of Post-Operative Pain Medications at Discharge in a Rural Community Hospital

Brett McKinney, PharmD; Caitlin Guerin, PharmD; Lauren Craycraft, PharmD, BCPS; Sharvil Patel, PharmD, BCPS and Tara Mains, PharmD, BCPS  
St. Claire HealthCare, Morehead, Kentucky

## BACKGROUND

- The opioid epidemic is a widespread issue across the nation. More than 1 million people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose<sup>1</sup>
- More than 75% of drug overdose deaths in 2021 involved an opioid<sup>1</sup>
- In 2021, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kentucky reached 2,250 overdose deaths with 90% involving opioids<sup>2</sup>
- In 2020, Kentucky ranked 5th in the United States for opioid dispensing rates at 68.2 prescriptions per 100 people<sup>3</sup>
- From 1999 to 2021, approximately 280,000 people in the United States have died from prescription opioid overdoses<sup>4</sup>
- Pharmacists play an important role in opioid stewardship as we can bridge the gap between prescriber and patient to ensure patient safety

## OBJECTIVES

### Purpose:

- To evaluate the use of opioids as post-operative discharge medications. Data collected from this study will be used to initiate an opioid stewardship committee.

### Primary Objective:

- Evaluate if opioid prescriptions given for post-operative discharge were prescribed appropriately

### Secondary Objectives:

- Identify patients who are discharged with an Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME)  $\geq$  50
- Record patients who were co-prescribed naloxone at discharge
- Determine which patients were given prescriptions with  $>3$  and  $>7$  days supply

## METHODS

**Design:** Single center, retrospective, observational study monitoring the use of opioids being prescribed for post-operative pain at discharge

**Performance Site:** St. Claire Regional Medical Center, Morehead, KY

**Inclusion Criteria:** All patients 18 years of age or older who received opioids as part of their post-operative discharge medications from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

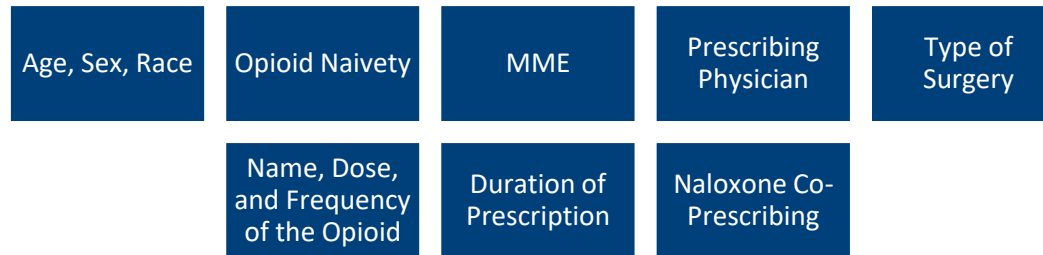
**Exclusion Criteria:** Patients younger than 18 years of age

**Recruitment Methods:** Report requested from clinical informatics of opioid discharge prescription from the surgery department from July 1, 2023 to

## DATA COLLECTIONS



Demographics	Results
Age	50.83 $\pm$ 17.97
Female Sex (%)	56.7%, 312 of 550
White Race	98.2%, 540 of 550
Opioid Naïve	54.5%, 300 of 550



## RESULTS

Primary Outcome	Secondary Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opioid prescription deemed appropriate</li> <li>397 out of 399 opioid prescriptions were deemed appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharged with MME <math>\geq</math> 50               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.4% (2 of 399)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Discharged with naloxone               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0% (0 of 399)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Opioid prescription <math>&gt;3</math> days supply               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7% (29 of 399)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Opioid prescription <math>&gt;7</math> day supply               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1% (4 of 399)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

This data will be used to evaluate the proper use of opioids as discharge medications. Using this data, we will attempt to initiate an opioid stewardship committee that will lead to patient safety in the inpatient and outpatient setting. We hope to implement this committee in 2024.

## DISCLOSURES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors of this presentation have the following to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.

Brett McKinney, PharmD: Nothing to disclose

Caitlin Guerin, PharmD: Nothing to disclose

Lauren Craycraft, PharmD, BCPS: Nothing to disclose

Sharvil Patel, PharmD, BCPS: Nothing to disclose

Tara Mains, PharmD, BCPS: Nothing to disclose