

Abstract

Background/Local Problem: The United States consumes more prescription opioids than any other country in the world, which has led to an opioid epidemic and concerning levels of opioid related deaths. Opioid misuse, abuse, and addiction is also a growing problem throughout Virginia specifically. When prescribers follow opioid guidelines, patients may still misuse and/or abuse opioids. Prescribers need to ensure they are screening patients for misuse and abuse and ensure safer opioid prescribing. **Methods:** A literature review was conducted to determine best practices for safer opioid prescribing and assessing for opioid risks. **Interventions:** A retrospective chart review will be conducted to understand baseline prescribing practices including total morphine milligram equivalents prescribed. An opioid risk screening tool will be implemented with prescribing staff in a local clinic and administered to patients receiving chronic opioid therapy. Data including total morphine milligram equivalents will be gathered post implementation to assess for changes in rates. **Results:** Based on literature review it is likely that implementing a screening tool will result in decreased overall morphine milligram equivalents prescribed. **Conclusions/Implications:** This presentation will increase awareness of opioid risks and safer opioid prescribing. The implementation of an opioid risk screening tool may improve patient outcomes and can be implemented in any practice setting that prescribes opioids.

Keywords: opioid therapy, overdose, risk assessment, opioid risks