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Statement of Need

Opioid analgesics are the drugs of choice for the management of moderate to severe pain due to surgery, trauma, and cancer and may be essential in the treatment of persons with chronic non-cancer pain. Yet in spite of their documented effectiveness, they are often underutilized or used inappropriately. There is confusion about the risks associated with the use of these drugs, particularly about addiction. There is also evidence that physicians' decisions about opioid prescribing have been influenced by their lack of knowledge about the laws and regulations that govern the prescribing of these drugs and their resultant fears of regulatory scrutiny.

This CME activity is designed to improve the knowledge of practicing physicians about the laws and regulations that govern the prescribing of opioid analgesics for pain control. It is specifically aimed at helping physicians learn the steps they can take to protect their practices from both unwarranted regulatory scrutiny and persons seeking opioids for non-medical purposes.

Target Audience and Scope of Practice

Physicians who prescribe opioid analgesics as part of pain management strategies in their clinical practice.

Elements of Competence

This CME activity has been designed to change patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, interpersonal and communication skills, and professionalism, five of the six competencies embraced by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the federal regulations that govern the prescribing and dispensing of opioid analgesics for pain control.
2. Understand the simple steps they must take to be in compliance with controlled substances laws and regulations.
3. Describe the basic components of an effective pain treatment plan.
4. Distinguish among patients who have developed tolerance, physical dependence and/or addiction to opioid analgesics.
5. Discuss approaches to use if a patient who is being treated with opioid analgesics exhibits behaviors that may be indicative of substance abuse.

Accreditation Statement

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Alliance of State Pain Initiatives, and Federation of State Medical Boards. The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation Statement

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health designates this education activity for a maximum of 7.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Continuing Education Units

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, as a member of the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA), authorizes this program for 0.725 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or 7.25 hours.

Release Date: March 1, 2009

Expiration Date: March 1, 2012

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It is the policy of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health that the faculty, authors, planners, and other persons who may influence the content of this CME activity disclose all relevant financial relationships with commercial interests* in order to allow CME staff to identify and resolve any potential conflicts of interest. Faculty must also disclose any planned discussions of unlabeled/unapproved uses of drugs or devices during the educational activity. For this educational activity all conflicts of interests have been resolved and detailed disclosures are listed below:

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There are no prerequisites for participating in this activity. The entire process listed below should take 7 hours and 15 minutes to complete. In order to receive credit, participants should complete the following steps:

1. Read the book.
2. Register and pay for the activity at www.aspi.wisc.edu/rop.html. The fee is \$30.00. Be sure to save the access code you receive in your email confirmation after registering for the activity, as you will need this to complete Step 3.
3. Complete and submit the online post-test and evaluation form at www.ocpd.wisc.edu/pgm/ROP. Participants must correctly answer at least 70% of the questions in order to receive credit.
4. Print your CME certificate.

Note: The CME activity will expire on March 1, 2012