

Reducing opioid prescribing in chronic pain -

High quality e-learning courses from PrescQIPP



There has been a marked and progressive rise in prescribing of opioid drugs in the UK over the past decade and the trend to increased prescribing continues. The increase has been predominantly for the treatment of non-cancer pain.

Opioids have demonstrable effectiveness in the treatment of acute pain and pain related to cancer but there is little evidence for the effectiveness of opioids for the treatment of chronic pain.

This e-learning course is aimed at medicines management teams, GPs, practice nurses, practice pharmacists and non-medical prescribers, and will help equip them to tackle this growth in use and to improve care for patients with chronic pain.

Course content

- This e-learning course has eight modules, four case studies and a final exam with a 70% pass mark.
- Once the course is passed a certificate of completion will be issued.

MODULE 1

Background to chronic pain

- Definition and the suffering and disability caused by chronic pain
- The expectations of chronic pain management
- The approach to chronic pain management with NICE guidelines

MODULE 2

Opioid efficacy and trial of treatment

- The lack of evidence of efficacy of opioids in chronic pain and expectations
- How an opioid trial should be undertaken, the appropriate duration and how to assess and document the outcomes of the trial

MODULE 3

Choice of strong opioid

- The evidence comparing non-morphine opioids with morphine
- The rationale for different formulations and routes of administration
- The approximate dose equivalence of opioids

MODULE 4

Adverse effects of opioids

- The short-term and long-term adverse effects of opioids
- Withdrawal and addiction symptoms

MODULE 5

Duration of opioid therapy and review

- The rise in prescribing of opioid medicines in the UK
- The repeat prescribing of opioids is discouraged
- The need for medication review

MODULE 6

Tapering and stopping opioids

- Improved outcomes anticipated after opioid dose reductions
- How to taper and stop opioids in practice

MODULE 7

Prescription opioid dependence

- Indicators that suggest the possibility of dependence on prescription opioids
- The potential need for specialist support for dependent patients
- The pharmacotherapy that may be prescribed by specialist service for opioid dependant patients during withdrawal

MODULE 8

Specialist services

- Specialist pain services and the variation in access to these across the UK
- Potential role of specialist drug and alcohol dependence treatment services for patients with opioid dependency

How to buy and access the course

- The course costs £14.99 (+VAT)
- Purchase at the [PrescQIPP website](https://www.prescqipp.com)



Access the whole range of [PrescQIPP e-learning courses](https://www.prescqipp.com).

PrescQIPP is a not-for-profit company that provides robust, evidence-based resources to NHS and social care organisations to help improve medicines-related care for patients.

All e-learning courses are CPD accredited.

If you have any questions about the courses, please contact

help@prescqipp.info.