

Better Pain Prescribing: Clarity and confidence in opioid management

Pharmaceutical opioids are now responsible for nearly 150 hospitalisations every day in Australia.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is committed to safer opioid prescribing - recently initiating a campaign to further improve prescribing decision-making processes and foster the safer use of opioids. Endorsed by leading pain, addiction and palliative care experts across Australia from the Opioid Regulatory Advisory Group (ORAG), this important campaign seeks to drive awareness of, and educate healthcare professionals around regulatory changes and measures that will help reduce opioid-related harm. The Faculty of Pain Medicine (ANZCA) has partnered with the TGA, developing a targeted better pain management and safe opioid therapy eLearning program for primary care providers involved in managing those with chronic pain.



Available at no cost to health care professionals residing in Australia, this course will help develop greater clarity and confidence with six key eLearning modules dedicated to best-practice opioids prescribing and pain management techniques. Targeted educational content developed by specialist FPM clinicians includes essential clinical tools, doctor/patient videos and individual case studies that will:

- Show you how to develop sustainable techniques that help achieve genuine, and clinically-responsible patient outcomes for those experiencing chronic pain
- Demonstrate how to further improve results with the use of alternative treatment options that provide clear pain management choices
- Provide you with non-pharmacological therapies that make a real difference in reducing opioid dependence, whilst optimising non-opioid medicines
- Reveal risk-assessment tools that will assist in recognizing complex pain management needs critical for use prior to commencing opioid therapy

'Better Pain Prescribing: Clarity and confidence in opioid management' includes the following modules:

Module 1: Making an effective pain diagnosis: a whole person approach

Understand the importance of a whole-person approach to pain assessment, including awareness of important pathophysiological pathways and the complexities underlying pain experiences

Module 2: The impact and management of psychological factors in pain

Recognise patients at risk for long-term distress and disability. Develop an effective management plan for psychosocial comorbidities in patients with chronic pain.

Module 3: A whole person approach to chronic pain

Comprehensively assess and manage complex chronic pain presentations. Educate patients about multidisciplinary pain management, whilst providing alternative solution options.

Module 6: Opioids in pain management

Initiate and monitor opioid therapy appropriately in patients with non-malignant chronic pain. Includes resources such as the Opioid Risk Tool for assessing a patient's risk of problematic opioid behaviour.

Module 7: Pharmacology of pain medicine

Develop and understanding of analgesic medications and mechanisms present in chronic pain to drive both clear and rational prescribing decision-making.

Module 11: High-dose problematic opioid use

More effectively prepare to deal with this complex opioid problem by understanding the influences that drive high opioid use within vulnerable patients.

Prescribing with confidence. Delivering better pain management solutions.