

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE OREGON PAIN MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO REVIEW OREGON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PAIN MANAGEMENT CURRICULA

Oregon Revised Statute 409.510 requires the Oregon Pain Management Commission (OPMC) to review pain management curricula of Oregon educational institutions. The commission is directed to make recommendations about legislation needed to ensure that adequate information about pain management is included in the curricula reviewed. The commission is directed to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly by January 1 of each odd-numbered year. Due to a vacancy in the only paid position that supports the work of the OPMC, this report is being submitted late, with apologies.

The following curricula were reviewed and discussed by OPMC members during this biennium:

- Gary DeLander, PhD. and Kenny Jackson, PharmD, CPE, presented an overview of the pain management curriculum that is taught in the Schools of Pharmacy at Oregon State University (OSU). They emphasized that OSU's pain management curriculum relies upon repeated, but progressive, exposure of students to various aspects of pain management throughout their education. Pain management topics are sometimes a specific focus of study, e.g. lecture hours are dedicated exclusively to headache and acute and chronic pain. At other times, topics are integrated into activities for which the primary educational outcome may not be specifically related to pain, e.g. developing competency in patient counseling. The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Core Curriculum for Professional Education in Pain and recommendations for Pain Curriculum in Schools of Pharmacy are documents that have served as guides in the development of pain management curriculum at OSU.
- Tara Gregory, MSHA, FNP-BC and Lissi Hansen, RN, PhD, presented an overview of the pain management curriculum that is taught in the Schools of Nursing at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU). Pain management in Advanced Practice Nursing curriculum is based on the delivery of content that is reflective of a balance of theory, practice and research. It includes

evidence-based decision-making and the use of national guidelines and evidence-based protocols. Education allows students to apply knowledge through case-based and clinical practicum education in addition to classroom content. Pain management instruction in the Undergraduate Nursing programs is based on “spiraling,” which is the intentional revisiting of major topics throughout the curriculum, increasing levels of difficulty expected of the students and with new learning related to previous learning. Nursing students assess, document and collaborate with multidisciplinary resources to mutually develop and plan care for patients with acute, chronic, and end-of-life pain management needs.

- Dr. Molly Osborne and Dean Vicki Fields, Assistant Dean for Medical Education, presented an overview of the pain management curriculum that is taught in OHSU Medical Student Curriculum. They emphasized that pain is considered a vital sign for any patient at OHSU clinics or OHSU Hospital so students are expected to review pain issues with every patient. At OHSU, pain management is: an integrated education throughout curriculum; integrated education builds from basic science physiology to address clinical situations; integrated education occurs in key settings from outpatient to inpatient to the operating room. Dr. Osborne noted that the Oregon Medical Board report of 2011 gives an overview of OHSU’s educational target: the use of effective pain control for all patients and referral to appropriate pain or palliative care specialists when appropriate.

OPMC members were impressed with these presentations and identified no deficiencies in pain management curricula for these institutions. Therefore, at this time the commission has no legislative recommendations regarding institutional pain management curricula.

This report is respectfully submitted by the OPMC on May 9, 2011.

This report may be obtained in an electronic version at the OPMC web site:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/PMC/index.shtml/training.shtml>

A hard copy of this report may be obtained by contacting the OPMC at: 503-373-1779.