Purpose and Background

In Oregon and across the nation, there has been a dramatic increase in overdose deaths and hospitalizations due to prescription opioid pain medications. Since 2000, a steep increase in prescribing opioids for pain has paralleled this increase in deaths and hospitalizations.

This charter establishes the Oregon Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Task Force. The task force will build on the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain to develop statewide opioid prescribing guidelines, with an initial focus on recommendations for clinicians who are prescribing opioids for pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care.

This effort will support Oregon’s initiative to address the epidemic of opioid use, misuse, and overdose by optimizing care, improving patient safety, and providing a consistent framework for endorsement and implementation at the local level.

Task Force end date: 12/16/2016

Scope

Specific areas that the Oregon Opioid Guidelines Task Force will address include:

1. Recommendations for clinicians who are prescribing opioids for pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care
2. Recommendations for adopting guidelines with specific patient populations, including legacy patients and other high MED patients
3. Dissemination and communication planning
4. Implementation across various providers and settings

Authority

The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division’s mission is “Promoting health and preventing the leading causes of death, disease and injury in Oregon.” Working to reduce deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits related to drug overdose is in alignment with this mission.

Membership/ Decision-making

The Opioid Prescribing Guidelines Task Force will include members representing the following affiliations:

Executive sponsors
OHA Public Health Division State Epidemiologist and State Health Officer: Katrina Hedberg, MD, MPH
OHA Chief Medical Officer: Jim Rickards, MD

Members
American College of Emergency Medicine, Oregon Chapter: Michael Henstrom, MD, FACEP
American College of Physicians - Oregon Chapter: Thomas Cooney, MD, MACP
American Society of Addiction Medicine, Oregon Chapter: Karen Weisman, MD
Co-author, CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain: Roger Chou, MD
Decision-making will be by consensus when possible. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote of members will be taken and the results will be recorded, along with statements of concurrence or disagreement if necessary.

**Deliverables/Outputs – Reports/Metrics**

Task Force discussions and recommendations will be documented in meeting summaries. The task force will produce a summary document of the Oregon Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, with specific recommendations for providers.

**Meeting/Meeting Support**

Oregon Health Authority employees will staff this Task Force. Meetings will adhere to public meeting policies and procedures. Meeting materials (agendas, minutes) will be available at the OHA opioids website: healthoregon.org/opioids