

# EDUCATING PATIENTS ON OPIOIDS

Evaluating Patients' Knowledge Regarding Opioid Prescriptions in An Independent Community Pharmacy: A Pilot Survey



## OPIOID MISUSE IS ON THE RISE.

Of the **92 million** individuals in the United States who use opioid pain relievers, **~10.58 million** misuse the medication.<sup>1,2</sup>

## A STUDY WAS CONDUCTED TO...

evaluate patients' knowledge on their opioid prescriptions and identify what resources were used to educate patients on their opioid prescriptions. Patients receiving an opioid prescription from an independent pharmacy were given an opioid education brochure and a link to complete a nine question anonymous survey about their awareness of their prescription being an opioid, how and what education they received, and from whom.

18 OUT OF THE 19 PATIENTS CONTACTED COMPLETED THE SURVEY FOR A RESPONSE RATE OF 94.7%.

When asked how they were made aware their prescription was an opioid...

13

patients selected patient counseling.

3

patients selected auxiliary label.

0

patients selected medication brochure.

When asked how they were educated on their opioid prescription...

13

patients selected patient counseling.

0

patients selected medication brochure.

3

patients selected they were not counseled at all.

## Auxiliary labels, medication brochures, and patient counseling are significant forms of opioid education.

### WHAT IS AN AUXILIARY LABEL?

Auxiliary labels are adhesive warnings attached to prescription vials which provide important information regarding the safe and proper use of a medication.<sup>3</sup>

High-Risk Medication  
**OPIOID**



### WHAT IS PATIENT COUNSELING?

Patient counseling is direct, verbal communication from healthcare professionals to patients which educates patients on the safe and proper use of their medication.

### WHAT IS A MEDICATION BROCHURE?

Medication brochures are a written form of education which provides extensive information to the patient regarding the safe and proper use of a medication.



## WHY DO WE NEED TO CREATE CHANGE?

Over **47,000** opioid-related overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2017.<sup>4</sup> Patient education is **key** in reducing opioid misuse.

## HOW CAN WE CREATE CHANGE?

Given that the study highlighted both the **success** of patient counseling and the **complications** surrounding auxiliary labels and medication brochures, the following steps are recommended.



### INCREASE REGULATION

Individuals must lobby for all states to require opioid auxiliary labels.



### PREPARE EDUCATORS

Health professions schools must emphasize opioid counseling in their curriculums.



### IMPROVE MATERIALS

Concise brochures written at the proper reading level must be produced.

## REFERENCES

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