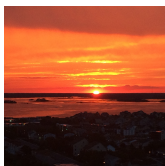


**Focus on NP Education:  
Opioid Dependence & Withdraw in  
Advanced Health Assessment**



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&  
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**Objectives**

- Understanding the importance of providing NP students the skills & knowledge to assess addictions
- Understand the process of implementing skills assessing opioid dependence and withdraw in NP programs

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**Importance in NP Education**

- Current national health crisis as drug use shifts away from illicit drugs
- Significant increase in non-medical use of prescription opioids:

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## What does the data say?

- The 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated that 35 million Americans (13.7%) adults age 12 years and older had used a pain reliever non-medically at least once in their lifetime. This is an 18% increase since 2002.
- November 2011, the national Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report reported 36,450 deaths from drug overdoses in 2008.

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## Taking Action in Education

- Integrated content on opioid dependence and withdraw into DNP Advanced Health Assessment Course
- Students (n=60) included across NP programs for the course
- Integrated opioid addiction & withdraw with Neuro-Muscular content
- Building on previous course content regarding substance use history

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## Didactic Content

- Opioid abuse & dependence
- Withdraw: Signs & symptoms
- Physical Exam:
  - Able to build from previous didactic and skills lab sessions on GI, And, HEENT, etc.
- Addiction Severity Index (ASI)



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## Lessons Learned

- Didactic content alone insufficient
- Students need more clinical exposure:
  - Simulations
  - Standardized Patients
  - Shadow clinicians working in addictions

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## Future Direction

- Include clinical decisions about opioid treatment in future courses
- Provide standard Opioid education module in multiple formats for didactic content before 'hands-on' experiences
- Use student feedback to improve delivery in future Adv. Health Assessment Courses

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## Questions?



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## Evidence-Based References

- Katzman et al (2014). Rules and values: A coordinated regulatory and educational approach to the public health crisis os pain and addiction. *American Journal of Public Health*, 104, 1356-1362.
- Vandermouse & Townsend (2010). Teaching thoughtful practice: Narrative pedagogy in addictions education. *Nurse Education Today*, 30, 428-434.

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