

The Problem



2011-2012

Drug overdose caused more deaths than motor vehicle accidents among people 25-65.

Drug overdose was the leading cause of injury death.

Drug Overdose

Too much of a drug or alcohol
or a mix of drugs and/or alcohol
for one's body to safely handle.



ALMOST ANY DRUG CAN CAUSE AN OVERDOSE



Nursing Goals

- Use appropriate assessment tools
- Change miss-conceived perceptions
- Educate
- Partner with professional organizations
- Keep current with government laws and strategies

Identifying Those at Risk

Identify and address

substance use disorders
or pain management issues
before they lead to overdose.

Risks for Drug Related Overdose

- Genetics - personal or family history
- Preexisting psychiatric disorder
- Psychosocial dynamics
- Environment
- Alcohol abuse
- Sleep disorder
- Those that self medicate
- Multiple health problems
- Frequent hospitalizations



Assessment and Screening Tools

- SOAP or SOAPP –
Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients
- STAR - Screening Tool for Addiction Risk
- ORT - Opioid Risk Tool
- ASSIST - Alcohol, Smoking, Substance Involvement Screening
- Detailed Home Medication History
- The Pain Medicine Questionnaire

Education

Nurses must help individuals to develop the intentions and skills to act in a Healthy Manner.

Changing the Perception

70% of people who misuse Rx drugs
obtain them on the street or from a friend.



**AMERICAS BIGGEST PROBLEM IS
NOT ON THE STREETS.
IT'S IN OUR MEDICINE CABINET.**

Myths

- It's ok to share medications
- Prescription drugs are safer than "street" drugs
- Education encourages use and abuse
- It's ok to take an extra or larger dose when needed
- Drug addiction and abuse only affects the younger population
- It's ok to keep old medications in case a condition comes back

Medication Safety

- SAFE USE** – Education beginning with **First Dose**
- SAFE HANDLING** – Record keeping and safe storage
- SAFE DISPOSAL** - Food and Drug Administration Guidelines
 - Pharmacy Take-Back programs
 - National Prescription Take-back Days

What's Being Done

Government Strategies

- Education
- Ensured access to treatment
- Naloxone reversal
- Good Samaritan laws
- Health Information Technology
- Medication Safety Best Practices
- State Prescription Monitoring Programs

PinnacleHealth Strategies

- Educational resources
- Appropriate pain management
- Access to treatment
- Home medication reconciliation
 - On admission and discharge
- Truven medication instruction sheets
- New medication instructions
- Medication Safety Practices
- Electronic Health Records
 - Patient portal

Conclusion

Rehab nurses play a vital role

Great changes can be made by:

- Participating in research
- Belonging to community and professional organizations
- Supporting government strategies
- Staying current with evidenced-based practice
- Knowing where to refer patients/family members
- Being aware of community recourses including helplines and emergency services

