

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

Organizational Statement

NAM Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) is a professional and scientific society that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources enabling clinical pharmacists to achieve excellence in patient care practice and research. ACCP's membership is composed of more than 17,000 clinical pharmacists, residents, fellows, students, scientists, educators and others who are committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy practice and evidence-based pharmacotherapy. The College's 26 Practice and Research Networks comprise clinical pharmacists who practice and pursue research in specialized fields of interest, including Pain/Palliative Care, Psychiatry/Neurology, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Adult Medicine, Ambulatory Care, Perioperative Care, and Education and Training. ACCP members typically practice in team-based acute care and ambulatory care settings. They focus on optimizing medication regimens to achieve patient-centered therapeutic goals, including management of pain, mental health disorder, and substance use disorder.

ACCP is committed to advancing clinical pharmacists' impact on the opioid epidemic. Clinical pharmacists care for patients in all health care settings. They possess clinical experience and in-depth knowledge of pharmacotherapy that are integrated with a thorough understanding of the biomedical, pharmaceutical, sociobehavioral, and clinical sciences. To achieve desired therapeutic goals, clinical pharmacists apply evidence-based therapeutic guidelines, evolving sciences, emerging technologies, and relevant legal, ethical, social, cultural, economic and professional principles. Accordingly, they assume responsibility and accountability for managing medication therapy in direct patient care settings, whether practicing independently or in consultation/collaboration with other health care professionals. In addition, clinical pharmacist researchers generate, disseminate, and apply new knowledge that contributes to improved health and quality of life.

Many strategies have been pursued to reduce the risk of opioid misuse, including limiting the supply of available opioids, developing abuse-deterrent opioid formulations, encouraging medication storage security at home, providing drug take-back programs, using prescription monitoring programs, providing naloxone, educating clinicians about the treatment of pain, and not overprescribing opioids for acute pain. In addition to efforts aimed at limiting or restricting access to opioids, programs designed to assist patients struggling with addiction, in particular medication-assisted treatment, can significantly reduce illicit opioid use compared with nondrug approaches.

ACCP supports education and training in collaboration with other professional organizations. The College has provided educational programming for its members on the following topics:

- The 2018 PADIS Guideline: Boosting Efforts to Reduce Pain, Oversedation, Delirium, Immobility, and Disrupted Sleep in the ICU
- Pediatric Pain Management
- Opioid Use and Outcomes in Solid Organ Transplantation
- Opioid Stewardship: A Quality Improvement Approach

ACCP recently joined the Coalition to Stop Opioid Overdose, a multidisciplinary group bringing together leading mental health, substance use disorder, and health care professional organizations to exchange ideas and foster collaboration. Given that patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) are often receiving complex medication regimens for other chronic conditions, managing their therapy can be challenging. Clinical pharmacists have both an opportunity and an obligation to participate in the care of patients with OUD by promoting rational pharmacotherapy and optimizing prevention, treatment, and recovery. Therefore, ACCP endeavors to provide educational, practice, and policy support to practitioners who are confronted with this issue in their care of patients.