

**Emory Healthcare Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic**

Emory Healthcare pledges support for the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Action collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. Emory Healthcare, with more than 21,000 employees and 11 hospitals, is the most comprehensive academic health system in Georgia. Emory Healthcare has \$3.3 billion in annual net revenue and provides \$89.1 million in charity care. System-wide, it has 2,673 licensed patient beds, 2,800 physicians practicing in more than 70 specialties and serves metro Atlanta with 250 locations.

In Georgia from June of 2016 to May of 2017, the total number of opioid doses prescribed to Georgia patients surpassed 541 million. Georgia is also among the top 11 states with the most opioid overdose deaths, and 55 Georgia counties have an overdose rate higher than the national average. In 2016, there were 918 opioid-related overdose deaths--- in Georgia—a rate of 8.8 deaths per 100,000 persons— compared to the national rate of 13.3 per 100,000 persons.

In March of 2018, Emory Healthcare adopted the *National Quality Partners Playbook™: Opioid Stewardship*, as the framework for establishing a system-wide Opioid Stewardship Council with the following objectives:

- Educate clinical staff on the risks of opioid use and available alternative strategies including non-opioid pain management methods and effective alternative methods for pain management.
- Measure provider ordering and prescribing behaviors in order to identify outlier and improvement opportunities with the goal of decreasing morphine milligram equivalents/day (MME/D) prescribed across the organization.
- Modify behavior to improve standardization and reduce harm as measured through a reduction in adverse events related to use of opioids (admissions and emergency department visits).
- Educate and effectively manage patients with opioid and substance use disorders.
- Reduce the operational burden on prescribers that prescribe and manage patients that require opioids through e-prescribing and PDMP compliance initiatives.

Past and current efforts have included integration of access to the state's PDMP portal through the electronic medical record and piloting of electronically generated prescriptions for narcotics for direct transmission to retail pharmacies. In addition, standardized pain agreements and morphine milligram equivalent (MME) risk-tier stratification solutions were developed for system-wide implementation. Finally, efforts are also underway to develop inpatient buprenorphine initiation and maintenance clinical pathways for treating opioid use disorder. Future efforts will include the adoption of a functional pain assessment scale and the development of clinical pathways that support use of multi-modal pain management strategies and reduction of post-operative opioid prescribing.

As the largest academic health system in the state of Georgia, Emory Healthcare looks forward to contributing to the identification and distribution of comprehensive, evidence-based solutions through clinical practice, research, and education in an effort to combat the opioid epidemic for our patients, families, healthcare professionals and the communities we serve.