ACPE Organizational Statement

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

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) pledges support for the National Academy of Medicine’s (NAM) Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic and its goal of expanding interprofessional networks dedicated to reversing national trends in opioid misuse and overdose.

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is the national agency for accreditation in pharmacy education in the United States and U.S. territories. ACPE sets standards for assuring and advancing quality in the education and continuing education of pharmacists to prepare them for the delivery of pharmacist-provided patient care. ACPE’s work extends collaboratively to include pharmacy technician education programs. In addition, ACPE reaches around the world through quality certification of programs outside of the United States and territories.

The opioid crisis has become a menace to society. Its devastating effect has taken both human and financial toll on families, communities and the country as a whole. Understanding that prevention is better than cure, ACPE encourages its accredited CE providers to identify the educational gaps in their communities and tailor the education to help remedy those gaps.

In order to combat opioid crisis, it has become imperative for health professionals to work together as a team including the communities that they serve. The Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education accreditation pathway, a collaborative of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), Accreditation Council for Continuing Education (ACCME), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has joined hands to encourage interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) of the healthcare team. The CE providers are encouraged to work as teams including the patients to find the most effective approach to reduce and eliminate misuse of opioids. ACPE and our colleague accreditors have strongly encouraged CE providers to utilize the FDA Blueprint for Prescribing Education for Opioid Analgesics as a resource in developing CPE activities that enable the healthcare team to understand the benefits, risks, appropriate treatment, and dosing associated with the management of pain that may include opioids. Also understanding when to use non-opioid options in the treatment of acute and chronic pain is important.