Resolution: 511
(A-18)

Introduced by: Oklahoma
Subject: Education for Recovering Patients On Opiate Use After Sobriety
Referred to: Reference Committee E
(Douglas W. Martin, MD, Chair)

Whereas, According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, every day more than 115 Americans die after overdosing on opioids and these are our patients; and

Whereas, Drug overdoses in the State of Oklahoma have increased by 91% in the last 15 years and continue to rise. We lose nearly 1,000 Oklahomans per year due to a drug overdose. In the last 3 years, more than 1,300 newborns tested positive for substance exposure and went into withdrawal the moment they were born; and

Whereas, Anecdotally, a common death scenario is when recovering opioid abuse patient takes their usual dose of opioids after a prolonged period of sobriety; and

Whereas, AMA Policy D-95.987, “Prevention of Opioid Overdose,” is to educate physicians and at-risk patients, it does not specifically address education needs of recovering opioid abuse patients after significant sobriety time; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA amend Policy D-95.987 by addition to read as follows:

Prevention of Opioid Overdose D-95.987

1. Our AMA: (A) recognizes the great burden that opioid addiction and prescription drug abuse places on patients and society alike and reaffirms its support for the compassionate treatment of such patients; (B) urges that community-based programs offering naloxone and other opioid overdose prevention services continue to be implemented in order to further develop best practices in this area; and (C) encourages the education of health care workers and opioid users about the use of naloxone in preventing opioid overdose fatalities; and (D) will continue to monitor the progress of such initiatives and respond as appropriate.

2. Our AMA will: (A) advocate for the appropriate education of at-risk patients and their caregivers in the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose; and (B) encourage the continued study and implementation of appropriate treatments and risk mitigation methods for patients at risk for opioid overdose.

3. That our AMA implement an appropriate education program for recovering opioid abuse patients and their friends/families that opioid use after significant sobriety time can result in overdose and death. (Modify Current HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined
Received: 05/01/18
RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Prevention of Opioid Overdose D-95.987
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Citation: Res. 526, A-06; Modified in lieu of Res. 503, A-12; Appended: Res. 909, I-12; Reaffirmed: BOT Rep. 22, A-16