

Michigan OPEN Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The Michigan Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network (Michigan OPEN,) pledges support for the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. A partnership of more than 50 organizations representing government, health systems, academia and other healthcare leaders, the Collaborative is sharing knowledge, aligning initiatives and addressing challenges to combat the nation's opioid crisis.

Launched under the leadership of three University of Michigan physicians with support from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Value Partnerships, and the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at UM, Michigan OPEN was founded to develop a *preventive* approach to the opioid epidemic in the state of Michigan through a focus on reducing acute care prescribing (surgery, dentistry, emergency medicine, and trauma). Addressing opioid prescribing during the acute care period among those patients not using opioids has the greatest potential to reduce the number of new chronic opioid users and minimize unintended distribution of prescription opioids into communities.

Through a partnership with statewide, physician-led networks, Michigan OPEN is collecting data, and identifying and disseminating best practices in acute care opioid prescribing to providers around the state. Data from these sources have been analyzed to track opioid prescribing, new persistent use, refills, opioid consumption, spending and utilization among patients with opioid use, impact of opioid legislation on opioid prescribing, and effectiveness of disposal methods.

These analyses then inform our work of creating prescribing recommendations for surgical procedures, informing policy, developing evidence-based education materials for patients and providers, implementing local quality improvement, and engaging partners in hosting medication tack back events in areas that are most in need of such events.

Prescribing Recommendations

Prescribers have little guidance available on opioids, and overprescribing is a widespread problem that contributes to the opioid epidemic that is currently claiming 130 American lives every day. Implementing evidence-based, operation-specific opioid prescribing recommendations can help eliminate overprescribing.

Michigan OPEN has developed the first evidence-based opioid prescribing and counseling recommendations in the U.S. for twenty-five common surgeries. These recommendations are available online for free and are updated regularly.

Education

Opioids are commonly prescribed after both major and minor surgeries for pain management. Becoming a new chronic opioid user is the most common post-surgical complication.

Michigan OPEN has presented educational forums to thousands of surgeons, physicians, nurses, dentists and physician assistants across the U.S. and has developed patient educational materials on safe use, storage, and disposal of opioid medications.

Disposal

With up to 92% of surgical patients having leftover opioids after common operations, millions of pills are left vulnerable to diversion into communities.

Michigan OPEN partners with communities, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies to hold opioid recovery drives twice a year in locations throughout the state of Michigan. To date, our Take Back Events have removed 6,500+ pounds of medication, including approximately 126,000 opioids, from Michigan households.