

Rx Safe Humboldt Coalition

Opioid Safety: Background and History

- Prescription opioid overuse and overdose has led to the deaths of more than 7,400 Californians in the last five years.
- Over the past decade, overdose deaths have exceeded motor vehicle related deaths in Humboldt County.
- In 2013 the Humboldt IPA launched the Chronic Pain coalition and beginning a collaborative effort with many local health care organizations (listed at left).
- The mission of the Coalition is to develop and implement community standards and supporting infrastructure for:
 - Diagnosis and treatment for **chronic pain**, providing patients with optimum care consistent with the risks of treatment;
 - Diagnosis and treatment for **acute pain** recognizing the risks of treatment, across providers and settings prescribing opiates; and
 - Strategies for **minimizing misuse** and diversion of prescription pain medications.
- Over the last two years we have formed working groups dedicated to:
 - Standards and guidelines – Develop specific community standards for safe prescribing of opiates and monitoring of patients taking them
 - Communication and Coordination—Reduce errors and inappropriate treatments as patients transition from outpatient sites through EDs and inpatient then back to outpatient
 - Complementary Resources - Create a directory/resource manual that will contain useful information for providers and patients about non-pharmacologic ways to treat chronic pain.
 - Data – Assistance with identifying problem areas and progress
 - Medication Assisted Treatment – Treatment for opiate dependence (buprenorphine)
 - Naloxone distribution and training – Support for decreasing opiate overdoses and patients education regarding the risks of high dose medications
 - Marketing and Public Outreach – Increase public awareness
- In November of 2015, the coalition was awarded \$60,000 from the California HealthCare Foundation to expand our coalition efforts and to collaborate with other efforts across the state.

