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:
  o Diagnosis and treatment for chronic pain, providing patients with optimum care consistent with the risks of treatment;
  o Diagnosis and treatment for acute pain recognizing the risks of treatment, across providers and settings prescribing opiates; and
  o Strategies for minimizing misuse and diversion of prescription pain medications.

• Over the last two years we have formed working groups dedicated to:
  o Standards and guidelines – Develop specific community standards for safe prescribing of opiates and monitoring of patients taking them
  o Communication and Coordination—Reduce errors and inappropriate treatments as patients transition from outpatient sites through EDs and inpatient then back to outpatient
  o Complementary Resources - Create a directory/resource manual that will contain useful information for providers and patients about non-pharmacologic ways to treat chronic pain.
  o Data – Assistance with identifying problem areas and progress
  o Medication Assisted Treatment – Treatment for opiate dependence (buprenorphine)
  o Naloxone distribution and training – Support for decreasing opiate overdoses and patients education regarding the risks of high dose medications
  o 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.

For more information contact the Humboldt IPA at 707.443.4563 or at Rxsafehumboldt.org