

Reducing opioid prescribing in chronic pain - High quality e-learning courses from PrescQIPP



This course is designed for medicines optimisation teams, GPs, practice nurses, practice pharmacists, PCN pharmacists, care home pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

There are growing concerns that patients are prescribed strong opioids inappropriately for chronic pain and without considering other non-drug aspects of care.

The potential social and medical harms of opioids have been significantly underestimated.

The course is an update on our previous 2018 course on this topic, reflecting the latest evidence and guidelines. There are five modules covering chronic pain management, the evidence for opioids in chronic pain and their adverse effects, review and safe withdrawal of opioids and patient and clinician resources.

Course content

- This e-learning course has five modules, two case studies and a final exam with a 70% pass mark.
- Once the course is passed a certificate of completion will be issued.

MODULE 1

Management of chronic pain

- The impact of chronic pain
- Expectations of chronic pain management
- The difference between chronic primary and secondary pain
- Recommendations on chronic pain management within NICE guidelines, particularly with regards to opioid use

MODULE 2

Opioid efficacy in chronic pain and trial of treatment

- The lack of evidence of efficacy of opioids in chronic pain
- How to undertake a trial of opioid treatment if all other interventions have been tried

MODULE 3

Adverse effects of opioids

- The short-term and long-term adverse effects of opioids
- Withdrawal and addiction symptoms
- Requirements with regards to driving for patients taking opioids

MODULE 4

Review and withdrawal of opioids

- The need for regular reviews of people taking opioids and the content of those reviews
- The need for shared decision making when helping people decide whether to reduce their opioids
- The options for dose tapering and the need for flexibility

MODULE 5

Helping it happen

- The need for a 'whole practice approach'
- Incentives and resources available
- National patient support resources

Course access

This course is available for members of our medicines optimisation team and GP practice staff in our commissioning area.

How to access the course

- If you do not already have an account, register on the [PrescQIPP e-learning platform](#). Please select the correct commissioning organisation when registering as this will ensure you're provided with the correct access
- **You will need an access code before you can access the course. Please email lscib-el.adminmmt@nhs.net and on approval we will send you the required code.**
- When you have received the code proceed to Log into the PrescQIPP e-learning platform
- Find the course and select 'Access course' then enter the access code

If you have any questions about the course, please contact elarning@prescqipp.info.

Visit the [PrescQIPP website](#) to find out about other courses available.

