

Project #2: Opioid stewardship evaluation of opioid autostop orders implementation

Mentors:

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Background and Rationale:

Opioid Stewardship aims to optimize opioid prescribing and minimize the risk of opioid use disorder. Approximately half of admitted patients in hospital are prescribed opioids, but orders may be continued without reassessment of dose or duration. Prolonged opioid exposure increases the risk of adverse patient outcomes, including development of opioid tolerance and dependence, sedation, falls and subsequent withdrawal when opioids are discontinued. Automatic stop orders may be used to reduce unnecessarily prolonged treatment to minimize unintended consequences from lack of appropriate therapeutic evaluation. Automatic stop orders are used in some non-Fraser Health sites for opioids, and antimicrobials stop orders have been implemented since 2014 in Fraser Health. This policy is associated some success, but can also carry risks of inadvertent discontinuation, disruption in therapy and create additional work for providers to continue orders. The project aims to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of using automatic stop orders for opioids and determine the feasibility of implementation of the practice change.

Goals and Objectives:

- To review the literature for evidence for or against using automatic stop orders for opioids.
- To draft a clinical protocol for automatic stop orders for opioids.
- To create an implementation plan.

Proposed Methodology:

The student will review the literature for evidence regarding using automatic stop orders for opioids. To determine utility, the student will retrospectively collect and analyze data on hospitalized patients who have opioid orders that were inappropriately prolonged without reassessment and modification. The student will draft a clinical policy regarding opioid automatic stop orders, using the existing automatic stop orders for antimicrobials as an example. The student can then draft a preliminary plan for implementing the clinical policy.

Learning Opportunities:

The IHI mentee will have opportunities such as:

- Working with multidisciplinary health care professionals who will be impacted by this change, including prescribers, pharmacists, and nurses. The student will have an opportunity to present and discuss with members at the Fraser Health Opioid Stewardship Advisory Committee.
- Learning the considerations in policy making and implementation in a large health authority.

# of Students Required	1
Location(s)	Fraser Health Authority
Onsite Requirements?	No, project can be done virtually