



Talking Points

Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for Emergency Departments

August 24, 2015

1. Stemming the tide of opioid misuse demands a multidisciplinary effort — from law enforcement professionals, legislators, health care providers, long-term addiction rehabilitation specialists, behavioral health experts, and friends and families.
2. Hospitals and physicians welcome the opportunity to work with other stakeholders to address this dangerous and immediate threat.
3. Maryland’s hospitals and physicians have already begun work to reduce the chances of heroin addiction by committing to standardized emergency department prescribing guidelines.
4. The guidelines are endorsed by the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.
5. The guidelines promote:
 - a. Screening and patient education, to help detect and treat conditions that can lead to misuse and safeguard patients against the development of those conditions
 - b. Using existing tools like the state’s electronic health information exchange and prescription drug monitoring program to allow health care providers to more effectively track potential misuse of opioids
 - c. Standardizing prescribing practices to reduce unnecessary prescriptions (and the number of pills prescribed) to diminish misuse of opioids