CLINICAL REMINDERS FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS

Injury Prevention Service

Oklahoma State Department of Health

Learn more: poison.health.ok.gov

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Clinical Reminders

Determining When to Initiate or Continue Opioids For Chronic Pain

- Opioids are not first-line or routine therapy for chronic pain
- Establish and measure goals for pain and function
- Discuss benefits, risks, and availability of nonopioid therapies with patient

Opioid Selection, Dosage, Duration, Follow-Up and Discontinuation

- Use immediate-release opioids when starting
- Start low and go slow
- When opioids are needed for acute pain, prescribe no more than needed
- Do not prescribe ER/LA opioids for acute pain
- Follow-up and re-evaluate risk of harm; reduce dose or taper and discontinue if needed

Assessing Risk and Addressing Harms of Opioid Use

- Evaluate risk factors for opioid-related harms
- Check PMP for high dosages and prescriptions from other providers
- Use urine drug testing to identify prescribed substances and undisclosed use
- Avoid concurrent benzodiazepine and opioid prescribing
- Arrange treatment for opioid use disorder if needed