BACKGROUND

- In 2014, almost 2 million Americans abused or were dependent on prescription opioids. 1

- Opioids are responsible for:
  o Three-fourths of all prescription drug overdose deaths in 2013 2
  o More than 16,200 deaths in the United States in 2013 3
  o Nationally, deaths involving opioids have quadrupled since 1999 4

- The sharp rise in prescription opioid overdose deaths closely parallels the increase in the prescribing of these drugs. Opioid sales in the United States quadrupled from 1999 to 2013. 2

- Treatment of CNCP with opioids is a major medical and social challenge for primary care providers.

OBJECTIVES

- To conduct a focus group that would identify attitudes, emotions, and reflections of providers as they treat patients with opioids for CNCP.

METHODS

- As part of a multi-faceted quality improvement study conducted within our family medicine residency program, one pharmacist, four family medicine faculty members and five residents participated.

- A trained medical student, in the presence of key investigators, moderated the focus group.

- Participants were provided anonymous aliases and responses were audio-recorded.

- Audio recording was transcribed and analyzed by the investigators, moderated the focus group.

- We would like to acknowledge Danielle Greer, PhD for substantive text.

- We would also like to acknowledge Dr. Michael McNett, Dr. Christopher Klink, and Dr. Brian Wallace for their ongoing contribution and guidance in relation to this study.

- Lastly, we want to acknowledge Courtney Pokrzywa for the organization and moderation of the focus group.

CONCLUSIONS

- While a predominance of negative experiences and challenges were reported, positive emotions during this focus group demonstrated that providers appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences on this sensitive topic.

- Primary care providers face barriers to treat CNCP patients on an individual and institutional level. Better provider training and implementation of standard guidelines were among the most common suggestions for improvement.

- Input obtained during this focus group was used to help our institution develop standardized practice guidelines for the use of opioids for CNCP in the primary care setting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lastly, we want to acknowledge Courtney Pokrzywa for the organization and moderation of the focus group.

REFERENCES

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2014.
2. CDC. CDC WONDER Multiple Cause of Death data, 1999–2013.