

Implementation and evaluation of an overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) program

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Background

Opioid overdose has emerged as a leading cause of preventable death in the US. Opioid overdose rates quadrupled between 1999 and 2011. Prescription opioid overdose is of particular concern in states like Alabama where more opioid prescriptions are written per person than any other state in the country. Additionally veterans are twice as likely as the general population to experience an overdose.

The impact of opioid overdoses has prompted the initiation of programs aimed at reducing overdose incidence. These programs have evolved to include two components:

- 1.) Overdose prevention education
- 2.) Distribution of the overdose reversal medication naloxone

Naloxone distribution programs have demonstrated efficacy. According to the CDC, from 1996 to 2010 these programs have resulted in over 10,000 overdose reversals.

Naloxone is a pure opioid antagonist that displaces opioids from opioid receptors and reverses respiratory depression that leads to overdose mortality. Naloxone is well tolerated with minimal side effects apart from precipitation of withdrawal symptoms in patients dependent upon opioids.

Patient Criteria

Inclusion:

- Patients who received a naloxone kit after implementation of the OEND program

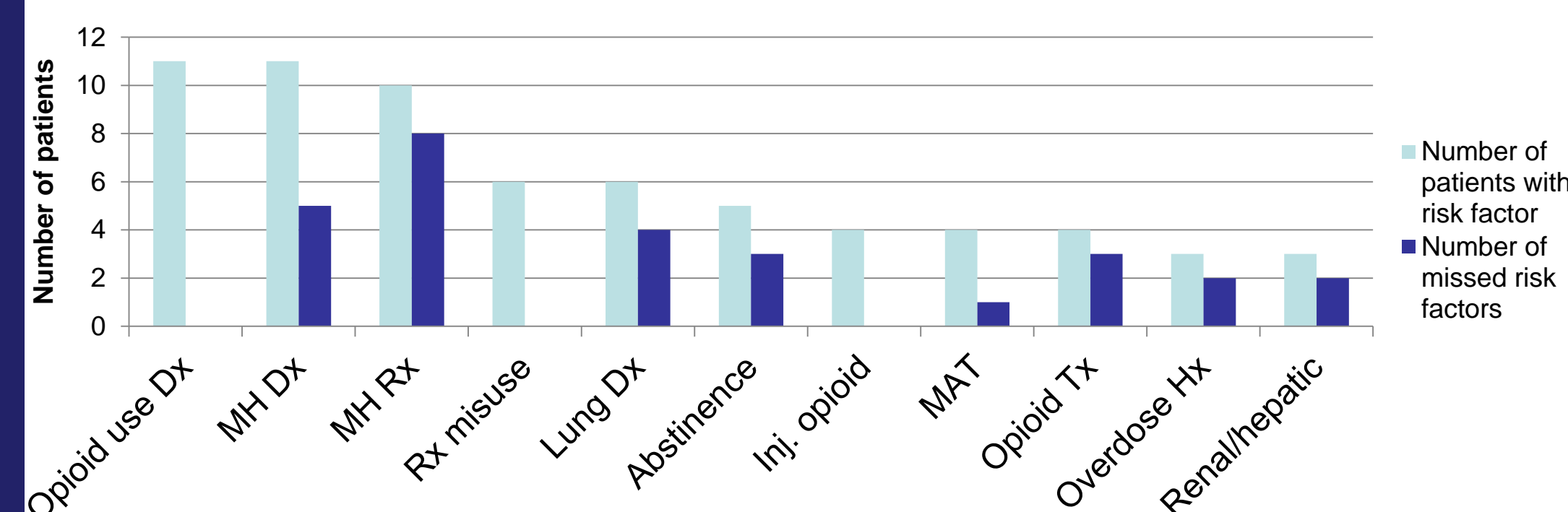
Exclusion:

- Patients who did not receive overdose education as specified by the TVAMC OEND program implementation protocol
- Patients who received a naloxone kit before OEND was implemented at TVAMC

Objectives

- The purpose of this project is to implement and evaluate an OEND program at the Tuscaloosa VA. This program will provide overdose prevention education and dispense naloxone kits to patients at risk for overdose.
- The results of this project will be used to ensure that naloxone prescribing practices at TVAMC are in accordance with national standards and to evaluate the impact of OEND on patient outcomes. The findings of this project will be used to improve the provision of overdose education and naloxone dispensation at TVAMC in order to reduce the number of opioid overdoses.

Overdose Risk Factors N=12



Patient surveys (N=108)	Mean	Median	Mode	Responses to open ended survey questions (N=108)	
Overall satisfaction	4.4	4.5	5	What did you learn?	General opioid information - 16%
Overdose prevention	4.5	4.5	5		Opioid use risks - 27%
Overdose identification	4.5	4.5	5		Reversal agent availability - 19%
Overdose response	4.5	4.5	5	What did you not understand?	How to administer naloxone - 13%
Comfort using Naloxone kit	4.3	4	5		How to administer naloxone - 1%
Importance of OEND	4.7	5	5	How can OEND improve?	Education too detailed - 8%
					Make education more hands on - 8%

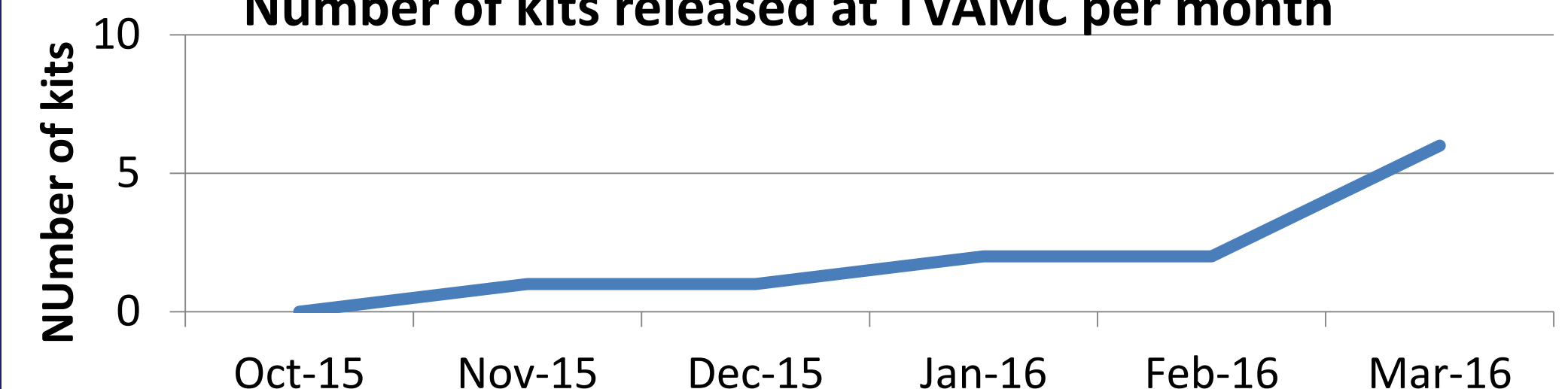
Disclosures

- All authors included in this study have nothing to disclose.
- This project was determined to be non-research per TVAMC IRB

Methods

- A medication utilization and a program evaluation assessing:
 - Patient impressions of OEND education
 - Naloxone prescribing patterns
- Education was provided weekly for new admissions to the residential rehabilitation treatment program (RRTP) and upon provider request from primary care and substance abuse treatment services
- Patient impressions of OEND education was assessed using a nine question survey administered immediately following educational sessions
- Prescribing patterns were assessed by chart review of all patients prescribed a naloxone kit after OEND initiation
- Chart reviews assessed:
 - Documentation of education
 - Naloxone prescription renewal and rationale
 - Comparison of cited risk factors for opioid overdose and documentation of risk factors in the patients' problem list

Number of kits released at TVAMC per month



Conclusions

- All patients receiving naloxone kits at TVAMC had appropriate indications
- Overall patient satisfaction with the OEND program was high
- OEND program improvement efforts should focus on increasing education access and use of more hands on education techniques such as simulations

