Combating the Opioid Epidemic

OCHIN’s efforts to address the opioid crisis center on partnerships, innovation and enhancements in our EHR systems, and research to help providers reduce the hold of opioids. We focus on the usability of our technology and sharing practices for responsible prescribing and treatment of opioid use disorders.

Opioid Partnerships

• SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions: Addressing substance use in AIMS (Access Increases for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services) awardee settings with effective EHR use

• HRSA: Member of the HRSA-HCCN (Health Center Controlled Network) collaborative and active peer-learning supporter

• MITRE/AHRQ: Piloting a Clinical Decision Support repository that provides a summary checklist for providers to use when evaluating patients with chronic pain

• Project ECHO: Hosted a national virtual panel in June 2018; in ongoing discussions around EHR tools for opioid management with a special focus on medication assisted treatment (MAT)

• California Health Care Foundation: Supporting EHR-integrated tools for MAT clinical decision support

Innovation and Technical Enhancements

• Upcoming EHR-integrated tools:
  - Morphine equivalent dose calculator
  - Structured assessments, including Opioid Risk Assessment tool
  - Grouped orders (SmartSets)
  - Pain Management Navigator
  - Chronic Opioid Therapy Registry

• Ongoing EHR enhancements:
  - PDMP integration, including an Appriss integration project in Oregon, Ohio, and Indiana
  - Suite of Medication Assisted Treatment tools in the EHR, including clinical decision support and workflows

About OCHIN

OCHIN is a nonprofit health care innovation center designed to provide knowledge solutions that promote quality, affordable health care to all.

We support over 500 clinics and 10,000 clinicians nationwide, with over half of their patients at or below the federal poverty level.

OCHIN levels the playing field in primary care for vulnerable patients by supplying safety net providers with best-in-class information technologies, services, and research to meet the challenges of serving low-income and vulnerable patients.
Current Research Activities

- **Back on Track**: Evaluating the impact of Medicaid reimbursement changes on opioid prescribing and outcomes among patients with low back pain
  - Study team includes OCHIN, Kaiser Permanente-Washington, and Harvard Department of Public Health, funded by Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute
  - Compares prescribing practices and patient outcomes after Oregon Medicaid expanded reimbursement for complementary and alternative treatments for low back pain
  - Will compare opioid prescribing between Oregon and California, where alternative treatments are not covered under Medi-Cal

- **EpiCenter**: Evaluating opioid prescribing in community health centers
  - A data-only study with OCHIN and OHSU, funded by National Institute of Drug Abuse
  - Compares community health center opioid prescribing practices with national trends
  - Links to EHR to analyze patient, clinic, and population factors in opioid prescribing practices
  - Uses geocoded community-level social determinants of health data associated with opioid prescribing and chronic pain treatment to understand trends in health centers

Why Partner with OCHIN?

OCHIN’s experience, implementation expertise, and patient-centered approach create a one-of-a-kind organization that focuses resources and research where communities need them most. As a network of networks, we provide unique opportunities to reach patients and providers, spread promising practices, and deliver evidence-based support to impact care.

We lead the nation in collection of social determinants of health data, and we exchange data with more than 44,000 hospitals, emergency departments, and clinics nationwide.

LEARN MORE

For more information about OCHIN’s opioid work, contact OCHIN Senior Director of Clinical Programs Anisha Abdul-Ali, DNP, MPH, BSN, RN, at abdul-alia@ochin.org.