

Opioid Prescription Disruptions, Now What? A Workshop on Responding to Disruptions

American Society of Addiction Medicine Annual Conference

April 14, 2023, 3:00-4:15 PM ET

Overview:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is a national nonprofit organization committed to supporting the work of state and territorial public health officials and furthering the development and excellence of public health policy nationwide. ASTHO's Opioid Preparedness project is a collaborative effort with the CDC's Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP) to support states' planning and response to disruptions in access to opioid prescriptions or medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).

A disruption is any event that halts the ability of a patient to access opioid prescriptions or MOUD, including a provider's death or retirement or a regulatory/licensing action against a prescriber. These events can be especially dangerous for displaced patients, who face an increased risk of negative physical and mental health effects, including feelings of abandonment, depression, and symptoms of withdrawal. In the absence of continued care, patients experiencing untreated pain or withdrawal may turn to the illicit drug market, putting them at increased risk for overdose. Furthermore, with the changing landscape in the illicit market, disruptions have become more urgent; pressing issues such as the increased presence of fentanyl and counterfeit prescription pills have created a more deadly supply.

Healthcare providers play a vital role in responding to disruptions, as it is essential that displaced patients receive care continuity. However, there is currently a shortage of providers who have the capacity to take on new patients and who are willing to absorb displaced patients, many of whom have complex healthcare needs. Fortunately, there are growing opportunities for healthcare providers to respond to these events.

Resources:

- ASTHO's Opioid Preparedness website: www.astho.org/topic/population-health-prevention/social-behavioral-health/overdose-prevention/disruptions-in-access-to-prescription-opioids/
- ASTHO's *Responding to Disruptions in Access to Opioid Prescriptions: A Guide for State Health Departments and Their Partners*: www.astho.org/topic/report/responding-to-disruptions-in-access-to-opioid-prescriptions/
- CDC's Opioid Rapid Response Program: www.cdc.gov/opioids/opioid-rapid-response-program.html
- CDC's 2022 Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/rr/rr7103a1.htm?s_cid=rr7103a1_w#suggestedcitation

Contact Information:

Grace Deleon
Senior Analyst, Social and Behavioral Health

gdeleon@astho.org

Stephanie Swanson
Director, Overdose Preparedness and Response

sswanson@astho.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Opioid Rapid Response Program (ORRP)

ORRP@cdc.gov