

Opioid Stewardship in Queensland

The use of prescription opioids have been steadily increasing since the late 90's in Australia with a threefold increase of PBS opioid prescriptions in Australia between 1992 to 2007.¹

The reasons for increase in use of these agents are multifactorial; ageing population, increase prevalence of chronic pain, inclusion of opiates in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) etc.

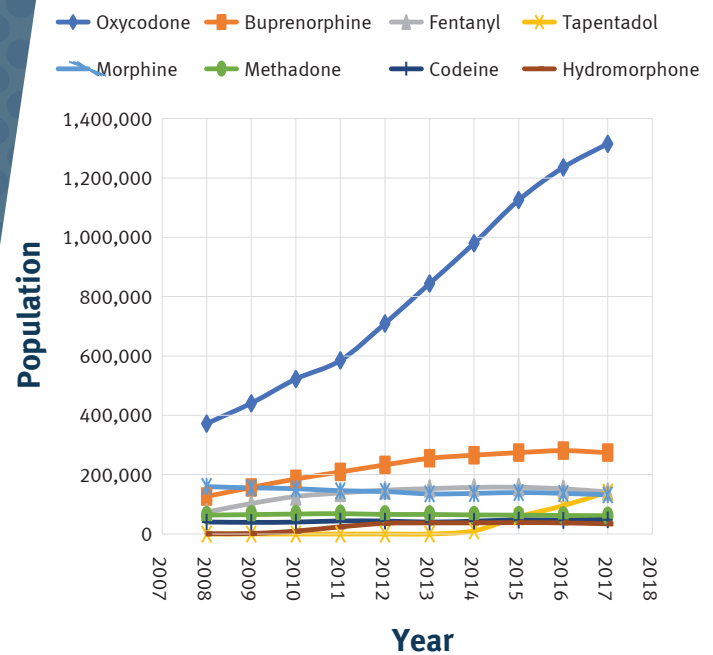
Opioid Stewardship (OS) is a systematic approach to managing opioid prescribing including appropriate use of opioids in pain management, improved patient education and improved clinical handover.



In 2017
2.5
million

opioid prescriptions
were made in
Queensland

Opioid prescribing – Queensland²



Prescription opioid related harms are increasing in an Australian context³

Every day in Australia,

- nearly 150 hospitalisations and 14 emergency department (ED) presentations involve opioid harm, and 3 people die from drug-induced deaths involving opioid use.
- In 2016, opioid deaths accounted for 62 per cent of all drug-induced deaths.

BMJ Study⁴

- In a study of 1,015,116 opioid naive patients undergoing surgery total duration of opioid use was found to be the strongest predictor of misuse.
- Each prescription refill and additional week of opioid use associated with an increase risk of harm

<https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/360/bmj.j5790.full.pdf>

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Queensland
Government

¹ Leong M, Murnion B, Haber PS. Examination of opioid prescribing in Australia from 1992 to 2007. Intern Med J. 2009;39(10):676-81.

² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018. Opioid harm in Australia and comparisons between Australia and Canada. Cat. no. HSE 210. Canberra: AIHW.

³ Brat G, Agniel D, Beam A, Yorkgitis B, Bicket M, Homer M et al. Postsurgical prescriptions for opioid naive patients and association with overdose and misuse: retrospective cohort study. BMJ 2018;360:j5790

'Opioid Stewardship' in action

