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Hospital Commitment to ED Opioid Management

Overview

Massachusetts communities continue to face an increasing number of patients addicted to prescription and illicit opioid drugs that present to hospitals and other healthcare providers, often resulting in overdoses and death. In response, the MHA Board of Trustees formed the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Task Force comprised of experts within a full continuum of healthcare settings. The task force was charged with developing provider-focused strategies addressing opioid misuse within healthcare settings. The first resource the task force developed was a set of guidelines to standardize opioid medication use and prescribing in Emergency Departments. The MHA Board of Trustees unanimously adopted, and the Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians formally endorsed, the guidelines.

The guidelines have several objectives. Foremost, they seek to ensure responsible and appropriate prescribing by all hospitals and providers while ensuring proper treatment of emergency medical conditions, including treatment of pain. They promote education of providers and patients to help detect and treat existing substance misuse conditions and safeguard patients against unnecessary risks of developing such conditions. Another objective is to reduce unnecessary prescriptions (and the amount of pills prescribed) to diminish inadvertent or purposeful misuse of opioid medication. As a matter of public health, primary exposure to opioids can often lead to other substance use.

ED Opioid Management Commitment

Hospitals, in working with Emergency Department providers, recognize the importance of appropriate prescribing practices, including educating patients on medication risks and benefits, as one part of the solution to the opioid misuse epidemic. Our hospital is committed to working with our staff and to providing resources for guideline implementation as appropriate for the patients and communities that we serve.

Specifically, our institution is committed to:

- **Working with our ED personnel to implement**, as appropriate, MHA's ED Opioid Management Guidelines;
- **Provide** MHA with periodic updates on the progress of implementation.

Hospital: _____

CEO Signature: _____ Date: _____

ED Chief/ED Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

ED Contact Name: _____ Title: _____

ED Contact Email: _____

Please fax or email this form to: Rachelle Mercier at (781) 262-6164 or rmercier@mhalink.org.