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An Emergency Physician's Perspective on the Opioid Epidemic in Wisconsin

*By Julie Doniere, MD
WACEP Board of Directors*

There is a dark, smelly staircase leading from the parking garage into my Emergency Department. Five years ago when I climbed those stairs at the beginning of my ED shifts, I felt like I was walking to the gallows. I was completely burnt out. One of the things sucking the life out of my soul at that time was the constant head-butting with my patients over opiate prescriptions.

I must admit, I still don't ascend those steps on the wings of doves, but, after becoming more involved and educated about the opiate epidemic my work related stress has substantially subsided.

It is important for us to realize that ED providers did not cause this crisis! New research led by the Mayo Clinic shows opioid prescriptions from the emergency department are written for a shorter duration and smaller dosage than those written elsewhere. A study recently published in the Annals of Emergency Medicine, also demonstrates that patients who receive an opioid prescription in the ED are less likely to progress to long-term use. We may not be the cause of the problem, but we sure have to deal with its outcome every shift at work. We are fortunate to be practicing in Wisconsin at this time, as the state has been proactive in this arena. [Read more.](#)

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is October 28

In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), local law enforcement agencies will be holding Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28. Police and sheriffs' departments will host events throughout Wisconsin as part of the Take Back Day.

Submit a News Story for the Website



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In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), local law enforcement agencies will be holding Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 28. Police and sheriffs' departments will host events throughout Wisconsin as part of the Take Back Day.

The goal of Prescription Drug Take Back Day is to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposal of unused or expired prescription drugs, while also educating the community about the potential abuse and consequences of improper storage and disposal of these medications. [Read more.](#)

Still Need your MEB-Required Opioid Prescribing Education? Access WACEP's On-Demand Webinar

The deadline for Wisconsin medical license renewal is fast approaching—Oct. 31, 2017, for MDs and Feb. 28, 2018, for DOs—and new this cycle is the Medical Examining Board (MEB) requirement for most physicians to complete two CME credits on its Opioid Prescribing Guideline.

Upon renewal, physicians must attest that they have completed the required opioid prescribing CME or will by Dec. 31, 2017. Only MEB-approved courses satisfy the mandate. All physicians should maintain a record of their participation; however, documentation is required only in the event of an audit.

[Register](#) for WACEP's on-demand webinar and obtain your required opioid prescribing education today!

WACEP 2018 Spring Symposium Registration is Open

Registration is now open for *Building Connections: WACEP 2018 Spring Symposium & 26th Annual Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Research Forum*. The event will take place March 14 & 15 at The Edgewater in Madison, and will include a newly formed partnership with MCW and UW that incorporates the annual Wisconsin Emergency Medicine Research Forum. Save the date, or [sign up today.](#)

Emergency Medicine Needs Your Voice! Join WACEP at Doctor Day 2018

Wisconsin's Doctor Day has quickly become one of the largest state advocacy events for physicians in the country. Over 500 physicians and medical students representing nearly every medical specialty are expected at Doctor Day 2018.

Whether you're well-versed in legislative and policy issues, or a beginner at advocacy, Doctor Day is for you!

The Doctor Day experience will provide an invaluable opportunity to learn the issues that impact physicians across disciplines, hear from key elected officials, and meet in groups with your legislators and/or their staff.

Join your colleagues on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. Learn more and register online at www.WIDoctorDay.org.

Last Chance! RSVP and join us on Monday in Washington DC

Attending ACEP17? Join your Wisconsin colleagues at WACEP's reception on Monday, October 30 from 8:00 to 11:00 pm at Del Campo, 777 I (EYE) St NW, Washington DC 20001. [RSVP here](#). *Sponsored in part by: Collective Medical Technologies, Inc.*



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