Universal Precautions for Drug Misuse and Diversion in Hospice and Palliative Care—Could an Ounce of Prevention Be Worth a Pound of Cure? (FR434)

Cleanne Cass, DO, Hospice of Dayton, Dayton, OH
Ruth Thomson, DO FAAHPM, Hospice of Dayton, Dayton, OH
Rebecca Bledsoe, PharmD; Hospice of Dayton, Dayton, OH
Elizabeth Durkin, MD, Hospice of Dayton, Dayton, OH

Objectives

- Recognize the national epidemic of misuse and diversion of controlled substances and the federal and state initiatives compelling hospice and palliative care programs to implement policies for safe management of scheduled medications.
- Create universal precautions for drug safety policies and procedures for one’s hospice and palliative care organization.
- Describe outcomes measurement of improved patient, family, staff, organization, and community safety and satisfaction.

Drug diversion and misuse in hospice and palliative care are exhausting and demoralizing for staff. As the epidemic of opioid abuse and misuse increases on a national level, government and consumer organizations are increasing scrutiny of all prescribers. Hospice and palliative medicine are at risk of stringent legislation that will make our mission of relieving terminal suffering more difficult to achieve. The presenters of this concurrent session have developed and implemented a proactive approach to management of scheduled medications that is effective in minimizing the risk of misuse. Participants in this session will review the current standards for medication safety of their accrediting organizations, learn how to implement “universal precautions,” and review the components of a drug diversion toolkit. There will be an opportunity for audience discussion and questions as case scenarios are presented.