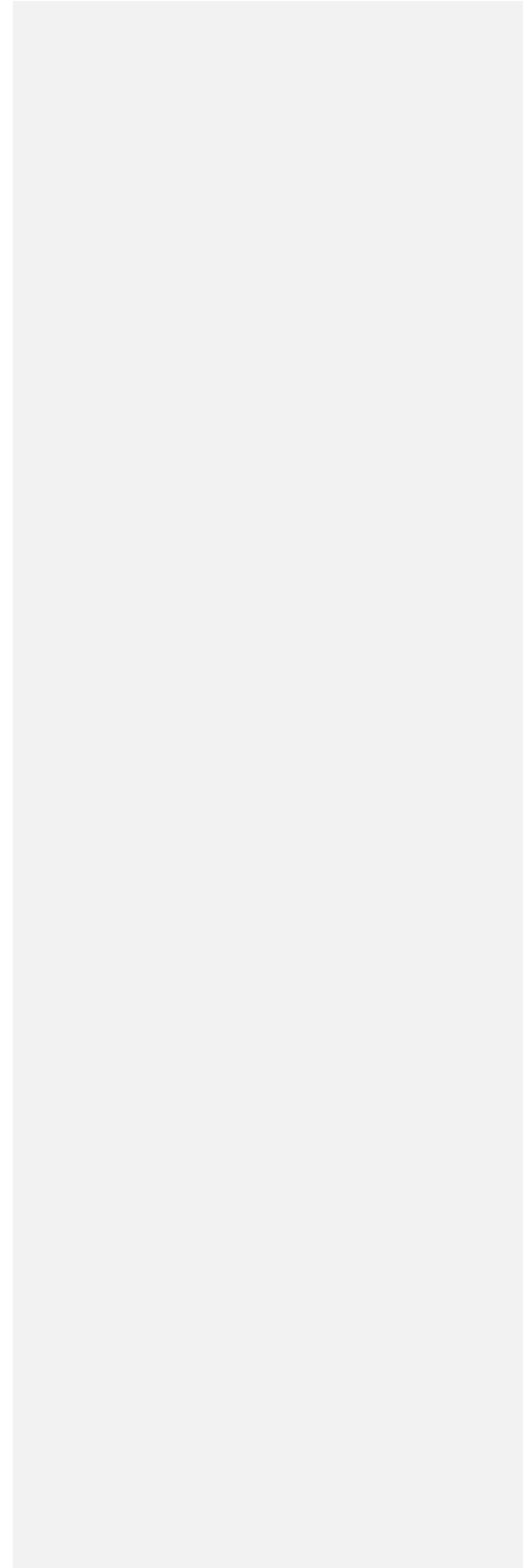


Opiate Painkiller Epidemic in Healthcare

Student Name

Name of University



Opiate Painkiller Epidemic in Healthcare

What was once deemed as the future in safe effective pain care management has now become a raging addiction and abuse epidemic that has left the healthcare industry wondering what led to this crisis with prescription pain medication addiction and overdoses. Currently in the United States new regulations and laws are being put into effect that limit the amount of opiate prescription pills that can be written by a healthcare provider in an attempt to dramatically cut back on the amount of new patient addiction cases that arise each year. The new face of the war on drugs looks dramatically different than it did several decades ago during the Reagan years when the war was only on illegal street drugs. Prescription pain pill addiction has become a serious public health issue and is one that must be effectively dealt with or it will only continue to escalate. The big question is how did America's health care system allow itself to be led astray and how did the opiate painkiller epidemic become so large? The increase in opioid addictions in the US has been caused by many things.

One issue that has helped contribute to this epidemic is pharmaceutical manufacturer's aggressive marketing of prescription painkillers, especially medications such as OxyContin, oxycodone, and fentanyl. Pharmaceutical companies pushed these new wonder drugs on the medical industry providing very little information on safety, long-term use statistics, and addiction concerns. The healthcare industry, in an attempt to more effectively and efficiently treat patients with chronic pain concerns and being under pressure from pharmaceutical companies, political powers, and the patients themselves, began to prescribe prescription pain pills at a much more rapid rate.

Commented [JV1]: Notice that the writer does not rely on sources at this point. He or she focuses on what has caused the increase in the opioid addiction crisis based on what he or she already knows, and by using logical reasoning skills to explore what factors may have contributed to the crisis.

Commented [JV2]: The paper's focus on the increase in opioid addictions is an appropriate topic. A stronger thesis that specifically answers the question of what caused this increase would be a way to improve the draft.

Remember that a thesis ANSWERS the research question you want to address. For Unit 6 this is a preliminary thesis, one that can be adjusted as you revise and strengthen your ideas.

Commented [JV3]: Notice how the body paragraph focuses on a cause of the increase. Strong topic sentences help to keep your paragraphs focused.

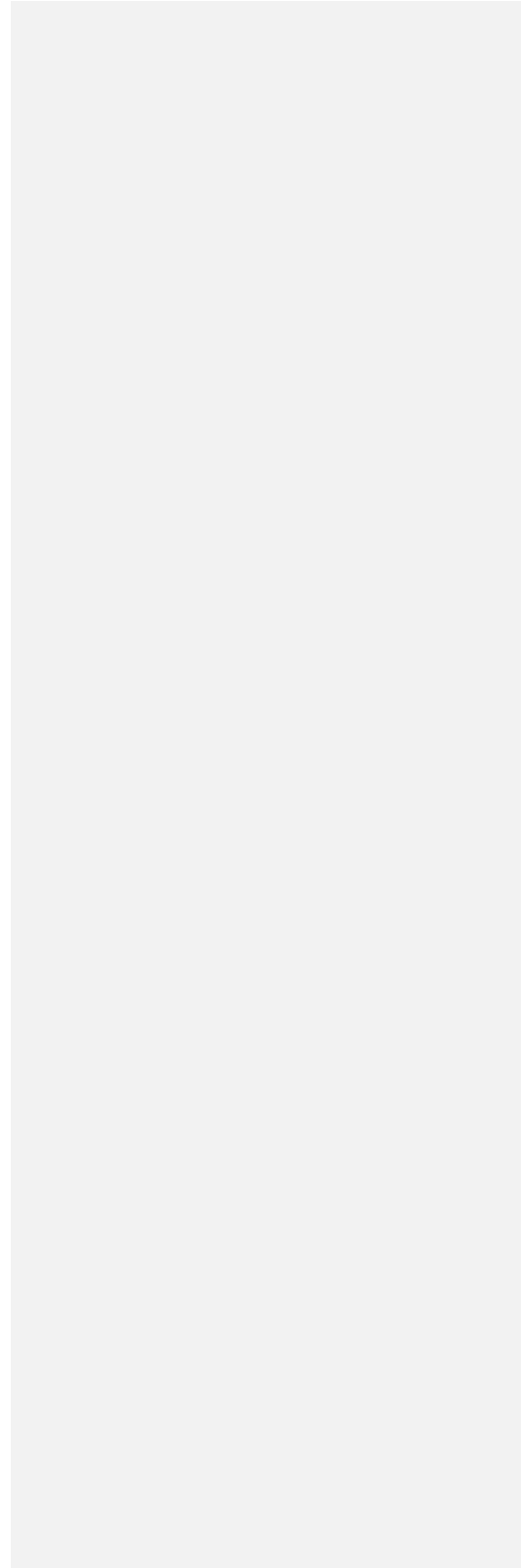
Patients in America have become so accustomed to taking a pill for everything and they believe that medications can solve all their problems. This kind of thinking has led to the over prescribing and abuse of opiate pain medications. In a short amount of time a patient can become dependent on prescription pain medications and be well on his/her way to a long-term addiction problem. Physicians and the healthcare industry now face how to curb opiate abuse and more effective manners of weaning patients off of these medications and providing alternative solutions for their pain treatment.

Commented [JV4]: The draft would be stronger if it used clear transitions to connect ideas and if this paragraph more clearly focused on one specific cause of the increase in opioid addictions.

Patient addiction to opiate pain pills is at crisis level in the United States and continues to grow larger in numbers every day. Patients desperate to feed their addiction are attempting to jump from provider to provider in order to obtain pain medication from multiple sources at the same time. Patients who are being weaned off of pain medications are then switching to illegal street drugs such as heroin; also, some patients who become addicted to harsher unsafe street drugs are likely to sell their prescription medications on the street for drug money which in turn puts more prescription pain pills in the hands of future addicts. New medications such as Suboxone are aimed at helping to treat opiate addictions in patients but are only marginally effective and many times the patients continue to use while on the medication or start taking illegal drugs once the Suboxone has been discontinued, and many times the patients sell their Suboxone on the streets for drug money.

Commented [JV5]: The topic sentence and focus of this paragraph could be stronger, since it is addressing some issues other than cause of the increase in addiction.

The opiate pain pill epidemic in the United States continues to grow daily and is one that must be aggressively handled before it is unstoppable. Every day in the United States the number of overdoses from opiate prescription pain pills is skyrocketing and shows no signs of slowing down. The big question now is not how the health care industry got into this situation, but how they are going to dig themselves out from under this massive epidemic.



RESEARCH PLAN: As I begin my research for my Unit 8 paper, the first stop I will make is the PG Library due to the vast amount of information that the library has available, especially the peer review peer reviewed journal articles that are available. The issue of the increase in prescription pain pill addiction is a very topical and current situation and information is available through many avenues, such as medical trade publications and journals, medical websites, various online newspapers and magazines. My first step will be start the PG Library and Google by placing a very basic search command such as prescription pain medication addiction and then narrowing down the search in order for my information to be more concise. I need to make sure I find information showing that the causes I identified in the paragraphs above are in fact the causes of the increase, and if not, I will look to other resources to replace any weak ideas in my draft.

Commented [JV6]: The required RESEARCH PLAN helps the writer to look ahead and plan what he or she is going to do in Units 7 and 8 to revise and strengthen the ideas in this draft. The more specific the plan, the more likely the student is to succeed in revising the paper and making it as strong as possible.