

UNIT 8 SAMPLE DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS

INITIAL POST:

Everyone, here is my revised draft.

Opiate Painkiller Epidemic in Healthcare

What was once deemed as the future in safe effective pain care management has now become an out of control issue pertaining to the prescription pain medication addiction and abuse epidemic caused by the excessive over prescription of these medications. 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 prescription pain medication addiction issue has gotten so large that 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.

One issue that has helped contribute to this epidemic is the aggressive marketing of prescription painkillers by pharmaceutical manufacturers, especially medications such as OxyContin, oxycodone, and fentanyl. Pharmaceutical companies are spending millions of dollars on promotional activities and materials that falsely deny or trivialize the risks of opioids

Commented [1]: Kellen's U8 DB post is a revision of his Unit 6 assignment submission. Using the feedback in Unit 6 and 7, he has strengthened the ideas. They still need more revision, but it's one step closer to being a very solid academic essay.

while overstating the benefits of using them for chronic pain (Perez-Pina, 2017). Perez-Pena states, as the healthcare industry was attempting to more effectively and efficiently treat patients with chronic pain concerns the pharmaceutical companies were providing funding to prominent doctors, medical societies and patient advocacy groups to win their support for the drugs' use (2017). According to Perez-Pena (2017), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states more than 25,000 people in the United States died in 2015 from overdosing on opioids like fentanyl, oxycodone and hydrocodone, more than twice as many as a decade earlier.

Patients in America have become so accustomed to taking a pill for everything and they believe that medications can solve all their problem and this kind of thinking has helped contribute to the over prescribing and abuse of opiate pain medications. Of the 20.5 million Americans 12 or older that had a substance use disorder in 2015, 2 million had a substance use disorder involving prescription pain relievers; a number which has surely increased over the last two years. Over the past two decades, rates of opioid overdose deaths have quadrupled, fueled by over prescription of painkillers (Park, 2016).

Patient addiction to opiate pain pills is at a 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. A large contributing factor in the over prescription of pain medication has been the lack of effective electronic prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMP) that can help alleviate diversion, over prescription, and fraudulently prescribed medications (Islam & McRae, 2014). New medications being prescribed 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 sell the Suboxone for prescription pain medication obtained from illegal sources.

Prescription pain medication addiction in the United States continues to grow daily and is one dilemma 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 facts and figures definitely tell a story and offer an in-depth insight on how the health care industry got into this situation, but the big question is can they implement solutions to help derail the issue before it picks up steam.

Resources

1. Perez-Pina, R. (2017, May 31). *Ohio sues drug makers, saying they aided opioid epidemic*. Retrieved from The New Times Times:
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/31/us/ohio-sues-pharmaceutical-drug-opioid-epidemic-mike-dewine.html?_r=1
2. Islam, Mofizul and Ian McRae. (2014). *An inevitable wave of prescription drug monitoring programs in the context of prescription opioids: pros, cons and tensions*. England: BMC Pharmacology and Toxicology.
3. (2016). *Opioid Addiction 2016 Facts and Figures*. Retrieved from American Society of Addiction Medicine: <https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/opioid-addiction-disease-facts-figures.pdf>
4. Park, A. (2016, November 24). *A new paradigm for opioid addiction: more drugs*. *Time*, pp. 48-53.

I think my draft is coming along, but I'm still struggling with the thesis a bit and I think I may lose focus on the issue of what has caused the increase in opioid addiction. What do you all think I can do to improve these areas, and are my citations correct? I'm not used to APA citations so I know I am making some mistakes.

Thanks

Kellen

RESPONSE TO INITIAL POST

Kellen, wow, you have really worked hard on this revision. I'm really impressed with all you have done and how much better this is than your last version. Your thesis is a little confusing to me still. If I'm guessing right, the last sentence in paragraph 1 is your current thesis: 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. But that's not what your paper is about. Your paper is about the causes of the increase in opioid addiction, not how to solve it, so maybe replace this sentence with a clearer thesis about the specific causes you focus on. I think you may also be over relying on the Park-Pena source a bit and I wonder if the information in paragraph 3 on how much this addiction has increased is really where it should be. You are also doing well with citations, but double check your citations using the APA Style Central. I think you need to change the word Resources to References and I know that the References list should be in alphabetical order, not numbered. I also don't see any in text citations for your 3rd source. Where in the paper do you use that source? Should you have in text citations for that source? Also, it is a good idea to review our first video from APA Style Central for information regarding where to place the year of publication in some of your citations.

Latrice

Commented [2]: Please note that Latrice's advice to Kellen does not address all the issues Kellen needs to work on in his revision. The References page citations themselves need further revision (for example, the third source should not begin with the publication date and the second source should cite the authors' last names and first initials, like this: Islam, M., & McRae, I. The page should also be titled References and sources should not be numbered)