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WELL AT HOME. SAFE AT WORK.

Session 604
Ohio's Injured Workers and The Opiate Epidemic

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BWC Pharmacy Program Director

1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 28

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

Is There REALLY An Epidemic?

- In 2010:
 - Americans consumed 93% of the world's prescription opiates;
 - They used 99% of the world's supply of hydrocodone.
- Nationally, 210,000,000 prescriptions for opiates
- In Ohio, on average, 67 doses for every man, woman and child
- Covered 607 doses per injured worker
- <http://www.consumerreports.org/health/best-buy-drugs/opioids.htm>

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So We Have An Epidemic – What's The Cost?

- In 2011, BWC covered 1.4 million prescriptions at \$136 million.
- BWC covered 464 thousand opiate prescriptions at a cost of \$55 million.
- Narcotic analgesics are our number 1 drug class.
- Oxycontin is our number **1** cost drug.
- Vicodin is our number **1** volume drug.

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No – What's The REAL Cost?

- Four Ohioans die every day due to unintentional drug poisoning.
- **From 2006 to 2009, on average, one injured worker died every week due to drugs.**
- **An injured worker is three times more likely to die from drugs than the general population.**
- <http://www.mh.state.oh.us/assets/bh-operations/opiate-epidemicfactsheet.pdf>

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Are All Opiates The Same?

- Are all opiates created equal?
- What's a high dose?
- How much is too much?
- Can we compare them?
- Morphine equivalent dose (MED)

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We've Got An Epidemic – So What's The Cause?

- The usual suspects – by Morphine equivalency
 - Hydromorphone – 4 (Dilaudid, Exalgo)
 - Methadone – 4-12 (Dolophine)
 - Oxymorphone – 3 (Opana)
 - Fentanyl – 2.4 (Duragesic, Actiq, Fentora)
 - Oxycodone – 1.5 (Oxycontin)
 - Morphine – 1 (MS Contin, Kadian, Avinza)
 - Hydrocodone – 1 (Vicodin)

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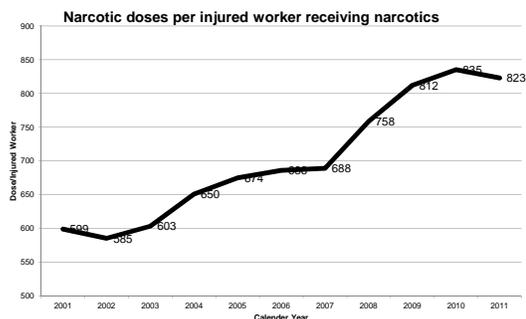
So How Much Are IW's Taking?

BWC opioid utilization 2011

- There were 39,000 prescriptions filled for opioids each month in 21,000 claims.
- Of these claims, 5,500 received opioids at or above 100 mg/day in MED.
- This equals 14 percocet tablets/day.

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A Decade Of Dosing



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So Much For The Numbers – What's The REAL Cause?

“Some people claim there's a doctor to Blame, but I know, well it could be my fault.”

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How Did The Epidemic Start?

- Mid 1980s – the hospice movement
- Early 1990s – WHO pain ladder
- 1992 – MS Contin introduced
- 1996 – Oxycontin introduced
- Late 1990s – pain became a condition versus a symptom
- 1997 – Ohio's intractable pain statute enacted
- 2000 – 2011 – multiple opiates introduced, multi-media campaign for expanded uses followed

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What's Fueling The Epidemic?

- Health industry patient satisfaction scoring
- Mass media campaigns by big pharmaceuticals
- Anecdotal versus evidence based prescribing
- Pain is a multi-billion dollar business.

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So What's BWC Doing About It Right Now?

- Controlling drug utilization
 - Stopped paying for prescriptions from **decertified prescribers**
 - Expanded relatedness list and enhanced clinical edits
 - Established a drug formulary
 - Restrictions on reimbursement for new drugs
 - Restrictions on skeletal muscle relaxants
 - Restrictions on continuous release opiates
 - Restrictions on opiate/acetaminophen combination products

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What's BWC Going To Do About It?

- Lock-in program to restrict doctor shopping
- Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee review of high risk drug regimens
- Limitations on immediate release opiates in conjunction with sustained release products
- Automatic drug reviews based on MED level
- Prior authorization based on national criteria

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Thank You For Your Attention

QUESTIONS?

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