

Helping Students Address the Opioid Epidemic: Raising Awareness, Shaping Attitudes, and Building Skills

Jason Satterfield, Era Kryzhanovskaya, Elizabeth Gatewood, Josh Luftig

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### Introductions



- Era Kryzhanovskaya
- Elizabeth Gatewood
- Jason Satterfield
- Josh Luftig

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No conflicts or disclosures to report

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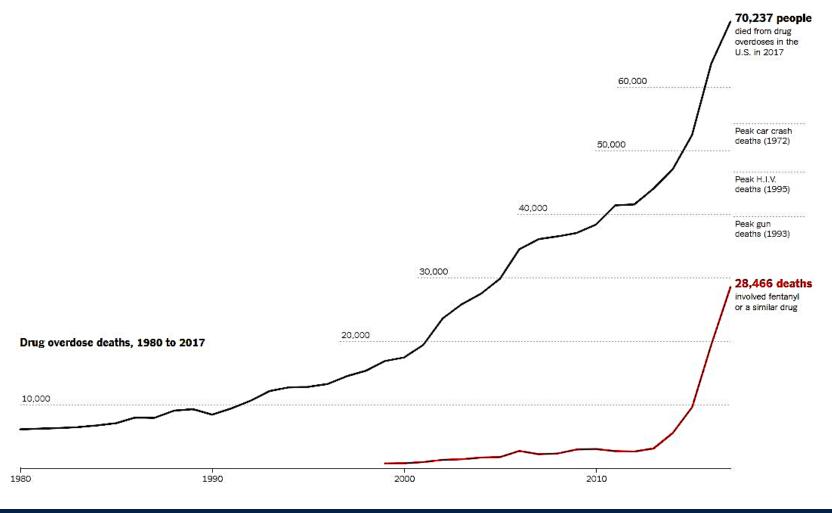
# Agenda

- Introductions
- Didactics
  - -Epidemiology
  - -Opioid use disorder (OUD)
  - -Treatment
- Cases (3)
- OUD Resources for Coaches and Students
- Reflections and next steps





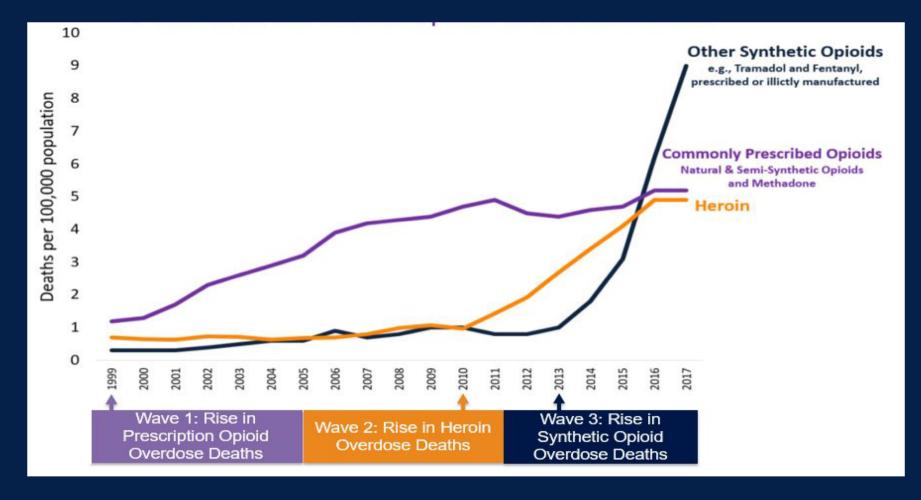
# Epidemiology of opioid epidemic



#### Source: New York Times, 2018



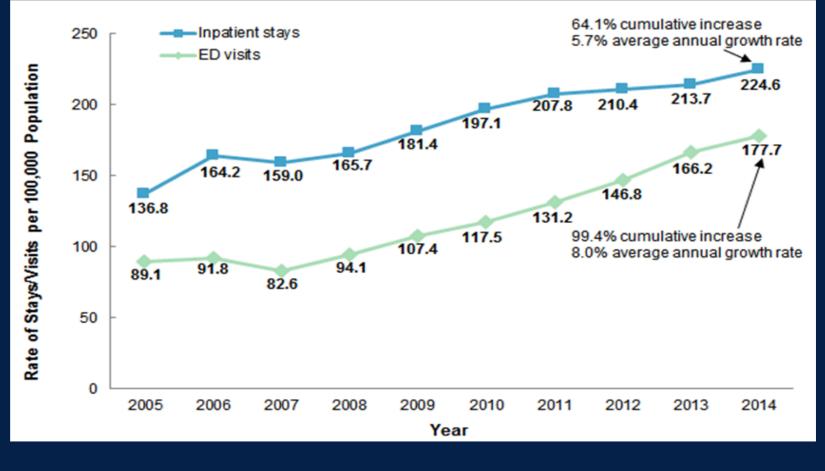
## Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths



#### Source: CDC, 2017



#### OUD-related ED visits and hospitalizations increasing



#### Source: AHRQ, 2017



# Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

#### How to diagnose

- DSM-5
- 4R's, 4C's
- Use + consequences of use

#### What you may see in clinic or hospital

Withdrawal

#### The 4R's -Role failure -Relationship trouble -Risk of bodily harm -Repeated attempts to cut back

The 4C's -Control (loss of it) -Craving -Compulsion to use

- -Consequences of use
- Uncontrolled pain (10% of patient with chronic pain have OUD)
- Skin and Soft Tissue Infections, Endocarditis, Osteomyelitis
- Trauma
- Overdose

### Why treat OUD?

- Chronic disease requiring chronic medication
- Eliminate withdrawal and preserve tolerance (in the hospital)
- Reduce cravings
- Proper dosing-> no euphoria, no sedation
- Detox doesn't last
- Decreased mortality
- Medications
  - Reduce injection and illicit drug use, infectious complications, criminal behavior, and promote return to work



## Medications for OUD

Y ←Opioid receptor ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Opioids: full agonist
 heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl, etc

Methadone: full agonist Activates receptor, prevents binding

Buprenorphine: partial agonist High affinity, ceiling effect

Naltrexone, naloxone: Full antagonist, high affinity



# Medications for OUD

	Methadone	Buprenorphine
Treatment retention	Higher than buprenorphine likely due to treatment structure	Retention improves at doses >16mg
Office visits	Daily visits to treatment program	Daily-monthly; can also provide as DOT in some settings
Who can prescribe in acute care?	Any inpatient provider during hospitalization. Any provider in ED: up to 72 hours dosing	Any inpatient provider during hospitalization. Any provider in ED: up to 72 hours dosing
Who can prescribe at discharge?	Opiate Treatment Program (methadone clinic)	Any provider with DATA2000 X waiver
Sedation	Yes at high doses in non-tolerant patients or slow metabolizers	Ceiling effect for respiratory depression
Withdrawal when starting	Takes time to reach comfortable dose	Need to be in withdrawal, precipitated withdrawal possible
	800 700 600 500 900 900 900 900 900 900 9	

2 3 4 5 6 7 Days at steady dose

0 1





Introductions
Didactics

Epidemiology
Opioid use disorder (OUD)
Treatment

Cases
Resources

Reflections

#### Case 1 Setup: What's wrong with this case? [taken from Steiger et al, SGIM 2019]

- The ER resident calls you with the following report: "I've got a shooter with a fever for you to admit. Besides polysubstance abuse and Hep C, no known PMH, no meds.
- Vitals are 39.5 118/68 115 18 99%
- On exam, she's yawning and has tracks up her L arm.
- She's demanding methadone and threatening to leave, but I already gave her 4 doses of narcotics, so I don't feel comfortable with that."



#### What's wrong with this case?

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# Words matter

### • LANGUAGE $\rightarrow$ BELIEFS $\rightarrow$ ACTION

- "Drug abusers" → "weak-willed" or "bad people" → poor medical care
- "PSA" → "demanding" → no treatment of OUD, AMA, missed opportunity for reducing harm from ongoing use



#### Case 1: Words Matter Person-First Language

- Case: You are working with a 2<sup>nd</sup> year resident in General Medicine Clinic. Your resident comes to precept with you about the patient they just saw.
- " J.P is a 56 year old IV drug user here for follow up after a recent hospitalization for another abscess. She left the hospital AMA after 1 day, because she was frustrated by the interruptions to her sleep when they would get vitals and blood draws. Her utox from the hospitalization came back dirty, consistent with cocaine. This is her drug of choice, which she's been shooting daily for years. The good news is there was no meth or heroine. They also screened her for HIV which was negative. Her PMHx is significant for Hep C and her viral load was 1.2 million. She also has had elevated BP, though it is not clear if she has HTN or if this is just because she's always high when she comes in for care. Ms. P was discharged on amlodipine 5 mg, but her blood pressure today is 164/90, so she's obviously not taking it. Though she says she picked it up. She also was discharged with antibiotics, which she says she finished yesterday. Her abscess is resolved, but she says she thinks she is getting a new one and is in a lot of pain. She was last seen here 2 years ago and it looks like they talked with her about how she needs to stop using so that we can treat her Hep C."



#### Case 1: Words Matter

- What concerns do you have about the language used by the resident?
- How will you address your concerns to the resident? What will you do if the resident becomes defensive?
- How can you promote person-first language and patientcentered care?

#### Instructions:

- Break into pairs for role play
- Role play with coach and resident during the precepting encounter [8 min]
  - Coach should intervene and demonstrate use of teachable moment with special attention to language, stigma and patient-centered care

#### Group Share: Case 1





#### Person-First Language Take-Homes

- Student language often reflects the implicit curriculum and broader societal messages.
- A "teachable moment" is an opportunity for growth and relationship building rather than a cause for reprimand.
- There is increasing awareness across medicine that "labels" matter and often rob patients of their humanity.
- Coaches can model person-first language across all diseases and conditions and promote culture change
- Practice language around stigmatized areas like SUD and BH
- Refer learners to online resources, published guidelines, and recent studies reviewing power of person-first language



#### Case 2: Screening, Intervention, and Education

Mr. B is 45-year-old man with a history of injection heroin use who is admitted with fever and erythema in his right upper extremity and diagnosed with cellulitis.

Two hours after admission, the bedside nurse pages the team to say that the patient reports feeling achy and nauseous. His pulse is 102, he is sweating, and moving frequently in bed.

You are the medical student who admitted Mr. Blue and spent time with him in the ED and now the hospital room. He tells you that his last use was this morning. He has tried to quit cold turkey before but "that just doesn't work," he says. He is currently experiencing homelessness, and lost his job last month when he didn't show up to work for the third time in one week.



#### Case 2: Screening, Intervention, and Education

Mr. B is 45M h/o heroin use admitted for RUE cellulitis, now tachycardic, diaphoretic, and fidgeting in bed.

Put yourself in the shoes of the medical student to consider the following questions:

- What is on your ddx? How would you narrow in on the dx?
- What diagnostic or therapeutic steps would you suggest?
- What would you do if your discussion with the team about your concerns for this patient wasn't helpful? When/how would you involve your coach or coaching cohort?

# Group Share





### Case 2: OUD diagnosis?

Let's check!

- DSM-5
- 4R's, 4C's
- Use + consequences of use

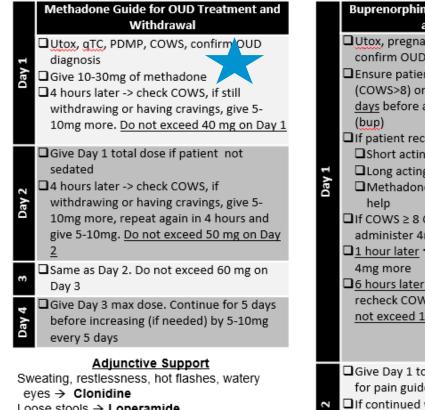
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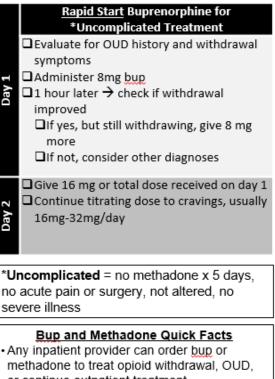
#### Case 2: OUD treatment

#### **Opioid Use Disorder, Withdrawal and Linkage to Treatment**



Loose stools → Loperamide Nausea → Zofran Insomnia → Trazodone or Melatonin Insomnia or anxiety → Diphenhydramine Pain → Tylenol and/or Ibuprofen

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Buprenorphine Guide for OUD Treatment and Withdrawal	
Utox, pregnancy test, PDMP, COWS,	
confirm OUD, consider QTc & LFTs	
Ensure patient in mild withdrawal	
(COWS>8) or has been off opioids for 5	
<u>days</u> before administering buprenorphine (bup)	
If patient received opioids:	
Short acting -> wait 12 h	
Long acting -> wait 24-48 h	
Methadone in the last 5 days -> ask for	
help '	
□If COWS ≥ 8 OR no opioids x 5 days →	
administer 4mg	
$\Box$ 1 hour later $\rightarrow$ recheck COWS. If $\geq$ 8 give	
4mg more	
$\Box_{\underline{6} \text{ hours later }}(\text{or sooner if withdrawing}) \rightarrow$	
recheck COWS. If ≥ 8 give 4 mg more. Do	
not exceed 16 mg on Day 1	
<u></u>	
Give Day 1 total dose. Refer to reverse side	
for pain guidelines	
If continued withdrawal or cravings,	
-	
increase by 2-4mg daily. Most achieve	
craving and withdrawal control on 16mg- 32mg/day	



- or continue outpatient treatment
  Any provider with an X waiver can prescribe bup on discharge, but ideal to link to close
- PCP follow up
- We're not allowed to prescribe methadone for OUD on d/c. Connect patient to methadone clinic!



### Case 2: Why treat in the hospital?

- OUD is root cause of ED visits, admissions, and readmissions
- Pivotal touch point to harness patients' motivation
- Provides a chance to link to care
- Reduces withdrawal symptoms
- Preserve tolerance
- Decrease AMA rate: 30% of patients with SUD leave AMA
- It's the right thing to do

#### Case 2: Take Home Points

- Screen for OUD w/ DSM, 4R'c/4C's, or use+harms
- Offer treatment when patients present with any of the evidence-based treatment options (buprenorphine, methadone, or XR-naltrexone)
- Encourage teams to discuss OUD on inpatient side; treating is one form of harm reduction...

#### Case 3: Harm Reduction Preventing Death from Opioid Overdose

Ms Y is a 43-year-old woman with a h/o heroin use % acute R ankle pain x 1 day onset s/p "stepping off a curb wrong". Vital signs are unremarkable aside from HR 98. On physical exam you notice a right lower leg fluctuance, swelling, and redness consistent with a developing abscess. She is also tapping her leg nervously, sniffling, and occasionally yawning. When you inquire about the abscess, she discloses that she injects heroin in that area, last time was yesterday. You ask how she is feeling overall, and she discloses that while waiting to be seen in the ED, she has begun to feel "sick" from withdrawal. You calculate a COWS score of 16. Ms Y has tried buprenorphine---she calls it "subs" for suboxone on the street and is amenable to starting treatment today for her withdrawal and to cut down on her heroin use. You consult a "quick start" buprenorphine dosing algorithm, initiate treatment with buprenorphine, and arrange next day follow up at a substance use clinic for continued treatment. Xray of the ankle is unremarkable, dressing and an ace wrap are in place, and crutches have been dispensed. Abscess incision and drainage is complete, and the patient feels better, asking to leave.

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#### CASE 3: HARM REDUCTION Discuss for ~10min

- If she had not disclosed her heroin use, how would you start the conversation about substance use?
- Why is acute care management of OUD critical?
- What interventions could be provided to reduce her risk of infection and/or overdose? How would you put these into action?
- What other benefits may arise from the use of harm reduction interventions?
- How can you teach harm reduction to your coaching cohort?



#### Group Share: Case 3

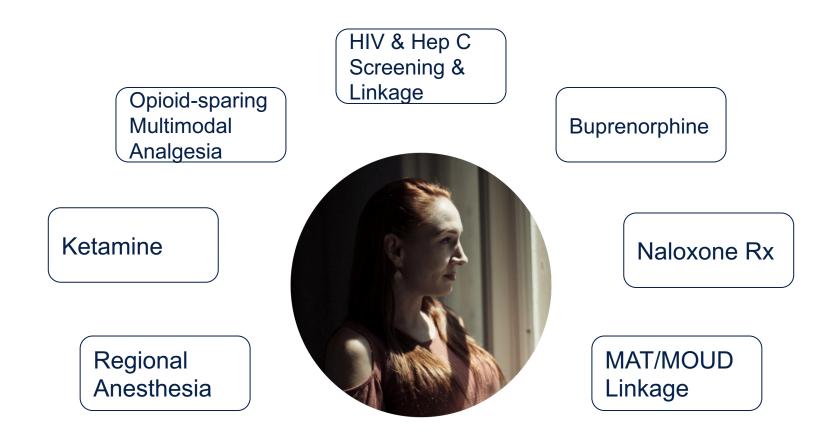




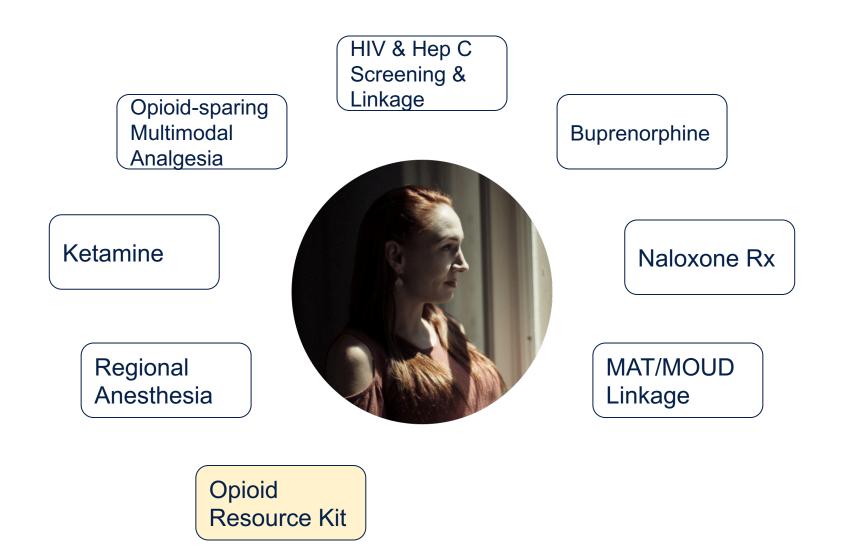
## Case 3: Clinical/Learning Pearls

- If she had not disclosed her heroin use, how would you start the conversation about substance use?
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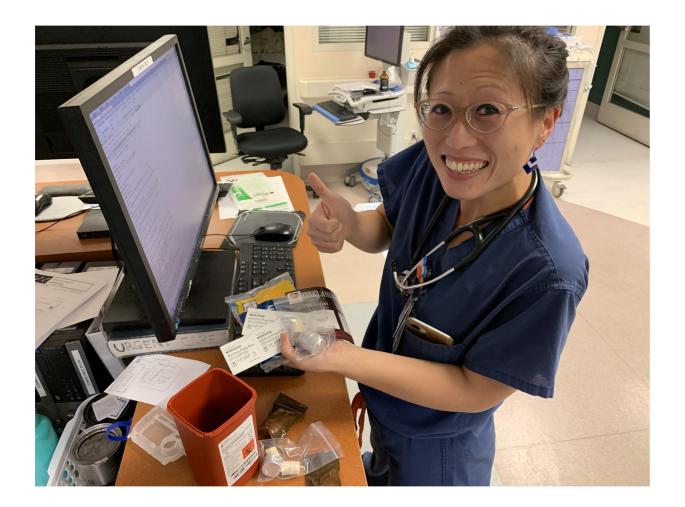


# Safer Use Injection Kits











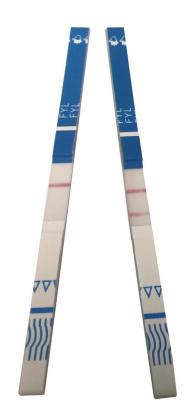




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We believe in offering **low threshold** services—meaning you don't have to fill out a lot of paperwork, and need to give minimal information to get services

We believe in harm reduction meaning we try and keep you safe even when you're engaging in risky behaviors, we know we all do things that carry risk, we know people use drugs for reasons and we are here whether you want to keep using, reduce or stop drug use

We believe in **non judgmental** care we are here to treat you without judgment, with dignity and respect no matter what choices you've made in your life or what situation you are in





#### HEPPAC

HIV Education Prevention Project of Alameda County 5323 Foothill Blvd Oakland, CA 94601 510-434-0307 Fax—510-261-8365

www.casasegura.org

#### Casa Segura Drop-In Center Syringe Exchange Services HIV/HCV Services Outreach Naloxone Distribution Highland Hospital Emergency Department

#### Casa Segura Drop-In

Services—showers, laundry, hot food, snacks, hygiene supplies, drop in counseling services, referrals Hours & Location 5323 Foothill Blvd, Oakland CA Tuesdays—9am-1pm Fridays—10-2pm Wednesday & Thursdays—by appt

#### Syringe Exchange Services

Services—syringe exchange, HIV testing, ICV testing and treatment, herbal and acupuncture care, wound and abscess care, primary care physician, narcan access, nygiene and basic needs supplies, hot food

#### Hours & Location

Tuesdays—6-8pm (E. 12th & 23rd Ave) Thursdays— 6-8pm (100th & Permain St ) Fridays— 12-2pm (2313 San Pablo Ave ) \*no hot food, or medical services on Friday

#### HIV & HCV Services

At all syringe exchange sites and by appointment at Casa Segura Drop-In you can get confidential HIV and HCV testing Once tested you get your results within 20 minutes and are able to be linked to treatment if needed HCV Treatment is now available at syringe exchange service sites

#### **Outreach**

HEPPAC does outreach across homeless encampments in Oakland. You can access services (HIV and HCV testing, Narcan, syringe exchange and harm reduction supplies) when you see the RV in your community



#### Naloxone Distribution

Naloxone or Narcan is an opioid antagonist that can reverse potentially fatal overdoses. You can get training on overdose recognition and response and get your own narcan kit at syringe exchange services, Casa Segura and during outreach.

#### Highland Hospital ED

Struggling with heroin or pain pills (opioids)? The Highland Emergency Department (ED) staff can start you on buprenorphine (suboxone) which is one of the best treatments for withdrawal and addiction. This can be done on the spot, without any blood/urine tests or paperwork. If you are planning on having your 1st buprenorphine dose in the ED (which is a great option!) try not to use any opioids for 12-24 hours prior to arrival. This is because buprenorphine works best if you are in withdrawal when starting. We understand withdrawal can feel horrible - but if you let the ED staff know that you are in withdrawal when you arrive you will be treated quickly and effectively!

#### Hours & Location Highland Hospital ED 1411 E. 31st St. Oakland, CA

#### Open 24 hours

Always available: Emergency buprenorphine treatment and referral to continued treatment.

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm: Treatment Navigator available provides additional expertise in substance use treatment and further assistance with connecting to continued buprenorphine treatment



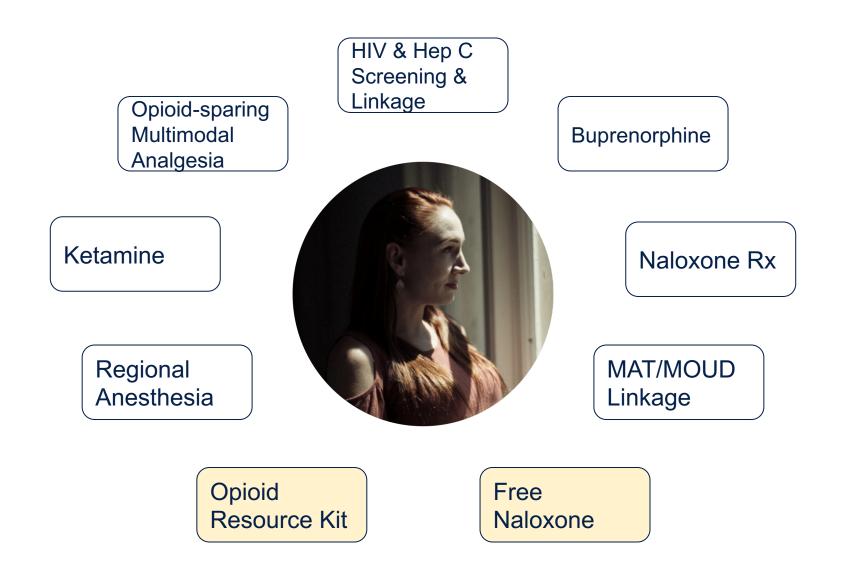


# Safer Use Smoke Kits







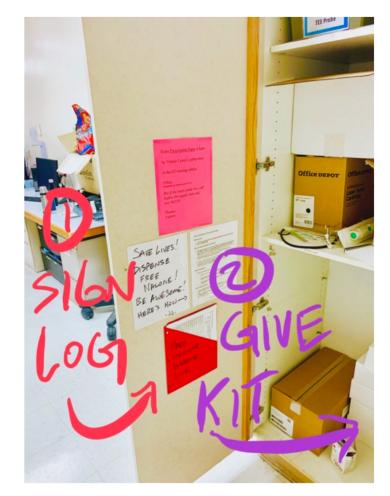




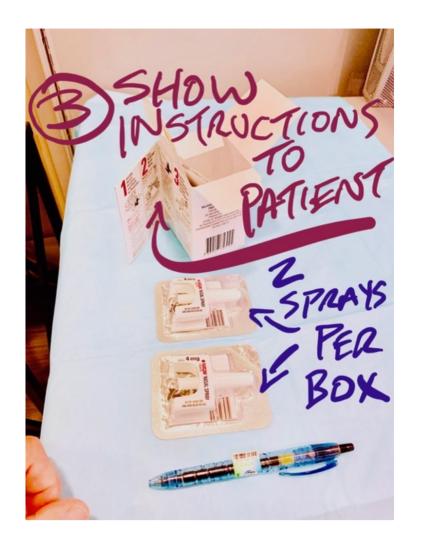




Super Simple Steps to Dispense (from charting room cabinet):









#### FREE

Low Threshold

Distributed from the ED





## Agenda

Introductions

Didactics

-Epidemiology

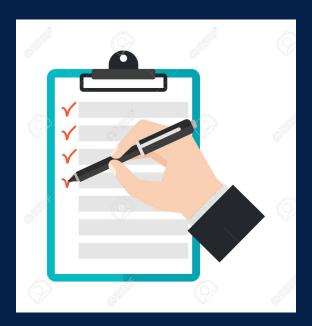
-Opioid use disorder (OUD)

-Treatment

Cases (3)

# **•OUD Resources for Coaches and Students**

Reflections and next steps





# Resources for Opioids, Pain, and OUD

- Opioids and Safe Prescribing
- Chronic pain management
- Person-first language
- Opioid use disorders diagnosis and treatment
  - Medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
- Harm reduction and overdose prevention
- Next Steps and Opportunities

### **OPIOID CRISIS** HELP IS HERE





### Reflection Take 2 minutes...

- One change you plan on implementing in your practice with learners.
- One take-home point from this session that will help you empower your learners to understand, diagnose, and promote treatment of OUD in their patients.

### Thank You! Questions? Collaboration?

irina.kryzhanovskaya@ucsf.edu
elizabeth.gatewood@ucsf.edu
jason.satterfield@ucsf.edu
josh@bridgetotreatment.org





