

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR
Pain Management

Nursing

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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American Society for Pain Management Nursing® Awarded Subcontract to Educate Prescribers in Effective Approaches to Treating Opioid Dependence and Chronic Pain

The American Society for Pain Management Nursing® (ASPMN®) has been awarded a three year subcontract on the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) grant, "The Prescribers' Clinical Support System for Opioids." This grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is effective July 1, 2011. The grant funds a program that will utilize innovative approaches to educating all clinicians who prescribe opioids. The program has two main focuses; one is on the use of opioid therapies for treatment of opioid dependence and the second focuses on the safe use of opioids in treatment of chronic pain including training on how to recognize misuse, abuse, and addiction in those with pain.

The project includes a large number of partners who will contribute to the development of educational materials including webinar trainings, trainings at national meetings, and clinical tools to assist practicing clinicians including physicians, dentists, and nurse practitioners. In addition to ASPMN®, partners on this project include the American Psychiatric Association, American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine, American Medical Association, American Dental Association, and International Nursing Society on Addictions. Numerous other national professional organizations with interests in safe opioid prescribing, pain medicine and treatment of substance use disorders are part of the AAAP Steering Committee. These groups bring together a wealth of experience and diversity to this project and ASPMN® looks forward to working with them on this important initiative.

The ASPMN® website will be linked to the PCSS-O website where a variety of services will be provided. Proposed are the following.

- Mentor/mentee program, a "Clinicians' Corner" where questions can be posted and other participants can respond.
- Library of online training modules
- news from the field
- Free regular webinar trainings on topics in safe opioid prescribing as well as presentations at annual meetings.
- Simulated virtual patients so clinicians can "practice" their skills in managing patients with problem opioid use.

This national project is aligned with ASPMN®'s mission *to advance and promote optimal nursing care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practice. This is accomplished through education, standards, advocacy and research.* ASPMN is working in partnership to further dissemination on the important issues of safe treatment of patients with opioids.

