



Collaborative for REMS Education

Title: [Opioid Prescribing: Safe Practice, Changing Lives](#)

<http://www.medscape.org/clinicaladvances/long-acting-opioids-cafp>

CAFP Program Offering:

A 2 hour engaging activity with an assessment to complete following the activity.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this program, learners will:

- Describe appropriate patient assessment for treatment with ER/LA opioid analgesics, evaluating risks and potential benefits of ER/LA therapy, as well as possible misuse.
- Apply proper methods to initiate therapy, modify dose, and discontinue use of ER/LA opioid analgesics, applying best practices including accurate dosing and conversion techniques, as well as appropriate discontinuation strategies.
- Demonstrate accurate knowledge about how to manage ongoing therapy with ER/LA opioid analgesics and properly use evidence-based tools while assessing for adverse effects.
- Employ methods to counsel patients and caregivers about the safe use of ER/LA opioid analgesics, including proper storage and disposal.
- Review/assess general and product-specific drug information concerning ER/LA opioid analgesics and identifying potential adverse effects of ER/LA opioids.

Summary:

Primary care providers, pain management, addiction and palliative care specialists, and clinicians representing all arenas of the health care system struggle to successfully manage their patients' pain. For many patients, long-acting and extended-release opioid medications constitute an effective and valuable element in the pain management plan. However, opioid prescription involves many complex issues of misuse, abuse, addiction, adverse effects, and fear of legal and regulatory action. In order to address risk and safety concerns, reduce serious adverse outcomes, and simultaneously ensure that persons with pain maintain necessary access to opioids, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) plan that applies to all long-acting and extended-release opioid analgesic medications. This activity is intended to be fully-complaint with the ER/LA Opioid Analgesic Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) education requirements issued by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

Aimed at stemming the "nationwide epidemic of prescription drug abuse," the release of this REMS was closely coordinated with The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as part of its master plan entitled "Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis." The REMS has four parts:

- **Supporting education for health care providers and patients, particularly regarding controlled substances and especially opioid analgesics.**
- Expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs (while recognizing that "more work needs to be done to maximize their effectiveness").
- Recommending convenient and environmentally responsible ways to remove unused medications from homes.
- Reducing the number of "pill mills" and rampant doctor-shopping through law enforcement efforts.

For further information about CO*RE, please visit <http://www.core-rem.org>

Patient Safety and Extended-Release/Long-Acting Opioids

From Medscape Education Neurology & Neurosurgery

Opioid Prescribing: Safe Practice, Changing Lives CME/CE

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Contents of This CME Activity

All sections of this activity are required for credit.



Section 1. Assessing Patients and Initiating Opioid Therapy

How do you decide whether an ER/LA opioid is appropriate?

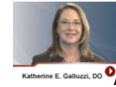
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Section 2. Managing and Monitoring Therapy

Recognizing the red flags to possible misuse.

Katherine E. Galluzzi, DO



Section 3. A Summary of Take-Home Messages

A quick review of the practice pearls.

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