

TGA: OPIOID CRISIS CONSULTATION COMMENTS

BACKGROUND:

There is a huge community of active young GPs and trainee GPs on a closed Facebook Group (GPs Down Under) comprising of over 5,000 members.

The TGA document was discussed on their blog and the idea of restrictions led to an enormous feedback of negative and largely misinformed comment.

You may want to contact the Administrators of the blog to provide some online background to TGA consultation.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Restrict the use of Fentanyl and OxyContin 40+80mgs strengths to Authority scrips for RACF and cancer pain patients only.
2. Restrict OxyContin 10mg to 112 tablets/month, OxyContin 20mgs to 56/month and Endone 5mg to 112 tablets/month.
3. If you are unable to do this make sure the non-cancer/RACF restrictions apply to all patients under 60 years.
4. Grade these changes over a year to allow for dose reduction programmes.
5. Making limitations to one group of doctors (e.g. GPs to Specialists will only inundate the latter with an untenable workload.
6. Proceed with Options 4-8 as outlined by TGA
7. More people have died through Prescription Opiates in the USA than in US military in the whole of the Vietnam War..... you need to educate GPs and the public more about the rational for your changes.