



Project Title: Evaluation of opioid use by surgical patients after discharge from hospital		Code: SPS11
Host School / Institute: Sydney Pharmacy School		Address: Prince of Wales Hospital and University of Sydney School of Pharmacy
Certificates & Clearances required: Yes *Vaccination Certificate *Working with children clearance *Police clearance * <i>Information on how to obtain certificates, where necessary, will be given to successful applicants.</i>		
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Co-Supervisor/team: -Ian Fong, Pharmacy Resident, Department of Pharmacy, Prince of Wales Hospital -Joanne Rimington, Senior Pharmacist Education and Training, South East Sydney Local Health District -Bernadette Bugeja, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Department of Pain Management, Prince of Wales Hospital -David Begley, Nurse Manager, Department of Pain Management, Prince of Wales Hospital -Kok Khor, Anaesthetist, Pain Medicine Specialist, Palliative Medicine Specialist, Prince of Wales Hospital		
Project Type: Clinical; Survey; Data Analysis		
Project Category: Pharmacy; Surgery		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: Customer service skills are beneficial.		
Project Keywords: Opioid; Surgery; Pain; Survey; Patient interview		
<p>Project Description: Opioid medications are commonly provided in excess to patients on discharge from hospital. A recent systematic review of studies from the US around unused opioids after surgery found that 67% to 92% of patients reported unused opioids, and 42% to 71% of the opioid tablets went unused. This review also reported consistently low rates of appropriate disposal, with other studies reporting that patients with an excess supply of opioid medications keep or plan to keep the excess supply. When unused opioids are not disposed of in a safe and timely manner, an 'opioid reservoir' is created in the community over which clinicians no longer have any control. It is currently not known if Australia has similar issues.</p> <p>In addition, opioids are causing significant harm in Australia as 150 people are hospitalised and 3 people die every day from opioid-related events. Results from the Australian National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016 reported that 1 in 20 people misused a pharmaceutical drug in the last 12 months, with opioid/analgic medications being the most commonly implicated (29% of misusers). Due to the substantial risk of harm that could be caused by unused opioids, this study aims to identify the proportion of unused opioids in patients prescribed opioids for acute pain one week after discharge in Australia.</p> <p>The research student will recruit patients on opioids for acute pain in surgical wards at Prince of Wales Hospital. These patients will then be contacted by phone one week after discharge to confirm their opioid use and disposal. Additional questions will be asked about patients' pain management plan with their general practitioner and satisfaction with their provision of opioid-related information.</p>		