Postoperative Pain and the Opioid Crisis: An Opioid Stewardship QI Initiative in Thoracic Surgery

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Implications for Nurse Practitioners

- Postoperative pain management after thoracic surgery is often the responsibility of nurse practitioners. There are several ways in which providers could improve opioid stewardship:
  1. Implement patient-centered, opioid-utilization-driven prescribing guidelines to target opioid requirements based on the final 24-hours before discharge to effectively manage postoperative pain after discharge and decrease the unused community surplus.
  2. Present individually guided, succinct provider opioid stewardship education by an expert in postoperative pain management.
  3. Integrate patient education throughout the perioperative experience, but principally upon discharge, on the safe storage and disposal of opioids to reduce the surplus of unused opioids available in the community.

References


No Financial Relationships or Conflicts

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