

A Message from Humboldt's Opiate Safety Coalition, RxSafe Humboldt

There's been a shift in the Standard of Care for the Treatment of Pain...

- ❖ In the past, providers were criticized by regulators for not prescribing enough strong pain medications
- ❖ In the past, providers were falsely reassured that some strong pain medications had low risk for addiction and overdose

But evidence now shows us...

- That many medications for pain and anxiety are very addicting and put patients at high risk for fatal overdose
- That dependence on prescription pain meds is how up to 80% of heroin addicts get started
- That opiates are not effective for many chronic pain conditions
- That most people who reduce or stop their chronic opiates have LESS pain and a BETTER quality of life

And we are working to improve patient care, by...

- ✓ Keeping patients from getting started on dangerous, long-term prescription medications
- ✓ Reducing their dosages if they are already at a dangerous level of these medications
- ✓ Caring for patients' pain and anxiety in safer & more effective ways
- ✓ Encouraging patients to keep their medications safely locked away, and to properly dispose of leftover meds (check for pharmacies with special disposal bins)
- ✓ Helping patients and their loved ones to recognize signs of a medication overdose, know who is at risk, and learn how to provide life-saving reversal medication

Because we all care about both safety and quality of life for our patients

Rx Safe Humboldt - Safer Care and Better Outcomes

For more information, www.rxsafehumboldt.org