**POSTER #6**

**NARCOTIC ANALGESIC PRESCRIPTIONS AT CHARLES B. WANG COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

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**BACKGROUND:** Overdose from narcotic analgesics have become a major health epidemic in the past few years, with prescriptions quadrupling in the past decade. In March 2016, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a guideline on prescription opioids for patients with chronic pain to address the increase in narcotics use and overdose. This study provides an overview of narcotic analgesic prescriptions at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC) in 2015 to identify risks and areas for improvement.

**METHODS:** Electronic health records (EHR) from 2015 at CBWCHC were reviewed to determine the number of unique patients who received a narcotics prescription and the number of narcotics prescription written per patient. Variables reviewed included age, gender, race, insurance, education, diagnoses, dosage, days prescribed, and concurrent benzodiazepine prescription. Characteristics of patients with a single prescription were compared to patients with multiples prescriptions in 2015 using chi-squared test and logistic regression.

**RESULTS:** In 2015, 152 patients or 0.3% of the CBWCHC population received at least one narcotics prescription. Concurrent benzodiazepine prescription was found among 14 patients. Patients age 70 and above had 4.2 times the odds of having multiple prescriptions (p<0.001). Patients who received more than an 8 day supply of narcotics were 4.1 times as likely to have multiple prescriptions (p=0.01). A large portion of patients who received only one prescription in 2015 received over a week’s worth of narcotic prescriptions.

**CONCLUSIONS:** CBWCHC patients were prescribed narcotics safely overall. Concurrent benzodiazepine prescriptions and prescriptions which were longer than a week will need further review to assess appropriateness. Improvements can be made by implementing CDC guidelines into the EHR system and designing future protocols along with informing providers on established risk factors for opioid dependence and abuse.

**CONTENT CATEGORY:** Patient Care

**KEYWORDS:** *Narcotic analgesics, opioid epidemic*