

# Missouri Hospital Fights Back Against Opioid Crisis

## Pandemic or Not, **SoutheastHEALTH** Moved Forward with Opioid Stewardship Program



Despite being in the middle of a pandemic in 2021, **SoutheastHEALTH** took the cue from regulatory bodies asking hospitals to implement opioid stewardship programs and used a personal touch to educate staff to make changes that save lives.

### Pharmacy Residency Program

Residents are required to conduct research projects. One resident was guided toward an opioid initiative that would lay the foundation for their stewardship program.

### Opioid Toolkit

Integrated an opioid toolkit within their EMR prompting physicians to enter prescriptions electronically versus on paper. IT located the toolkit within the system, activated it and staff began educating physicians on how to use it.

### In-Person Education

Rather than pushing out the new opioid stewardship directive through an email, staff were educated with an in-person presentation to explain the importance of the initiative.

### Electronic Prescribing

The hospital captured and analyzed data through the EMR, determining where to shift their focus. They identified potential areas for improvement where opioids were overprescribed including opioid prescribing for minor surgeries.

### Patient Education

The hospital increased its efforts to get the overdose drug, Naloxone, into the hands of its patients, encountering some resistance from patients about having Naloxone in their homes.

"Some of our older patients think that if someone sees (Naloxone) in their house, it's assumed that you have a drug problem. We need to educate them that this is not the case. Naloxone is for your safety. We work hard to explain this to our patients and get them to accept it."

*Sherrie Lane, PD, Director of Pharmacy at SoutheastHEALTH*

## Quality Gap

- High morphine milligram equivalents (MME) opioid prescribing
  - Rate of filled opioids  $\geq 90$  MME within 3 days of eligible inpatient discharges among Medicare fee-for-service patients
  - 2019 claims data identified 18 events of opioid prescription misuse upon discharge

## Outcomes

- 2019 baseline of high-dose opioid prescribing ( $\geq 90$  MME opioid prescriptions filled within 3 days of inpatient discharge): 18 events
- Same measurement from October 2022 - July 2023: 4 events
- Relative improvement rate: 59%
- Success story featured in the HQIC Together for Quality e-newsletter and HQIN's Innovation in Action blog.



## HQI's Technical Assistance to Support Hospitals

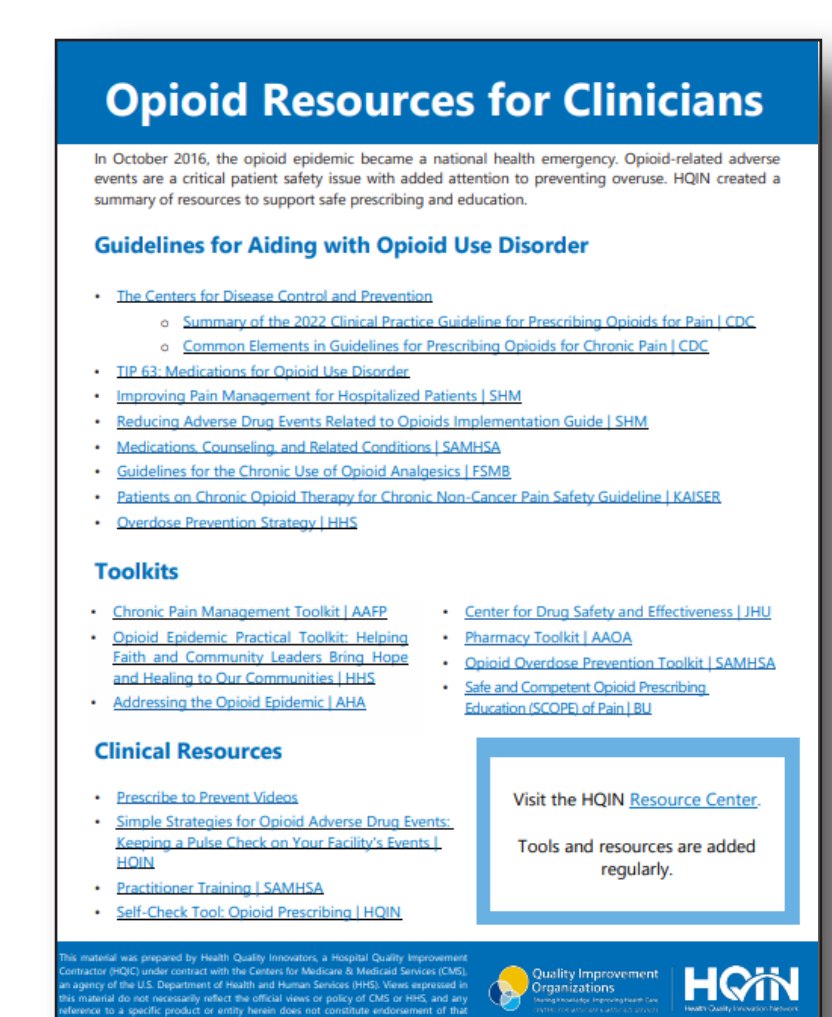
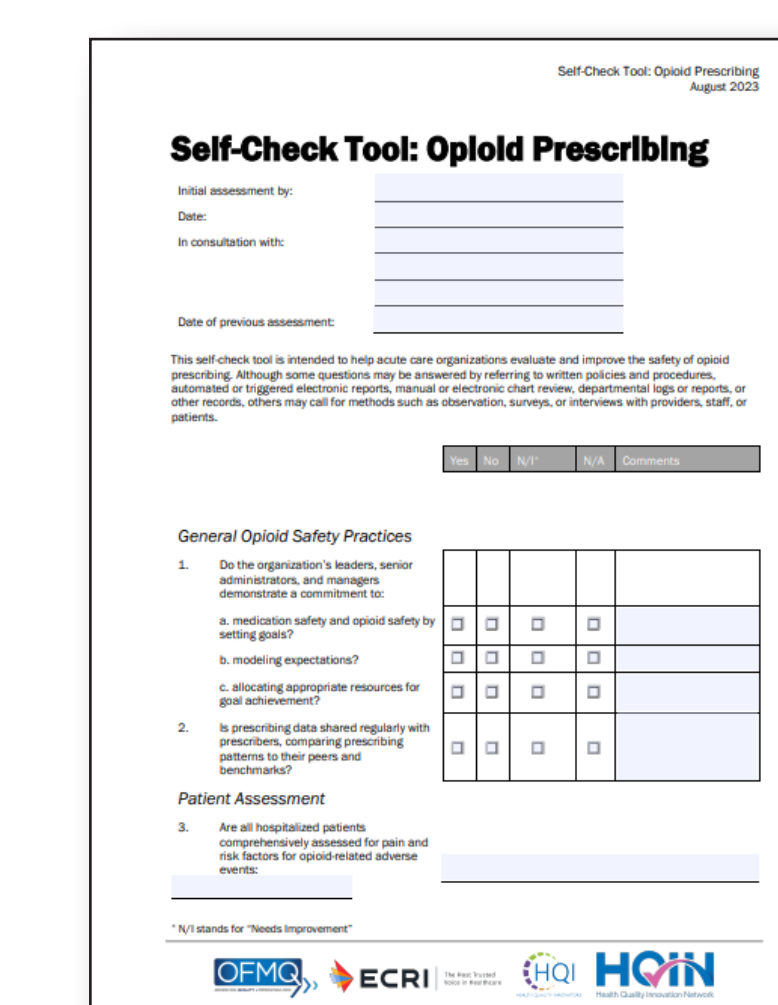
- Technical assistance coaching calls with data analysis for opioid related measures
- Evidence-based tools for opioid stewardship program assessment and measurement
- Peer-to-peer support related to technology
- EMR prompts to limit high-dose prescribing
- Updated policies with new opioid pain guidelines
- Successful submission of safe use of opioids concurrent prescribing eCQM

## Quality Improvement Plan

- Advance opioid stewardship program (OSP)
  - Focus on provider prescribing patterns to manage surgical pain
- Utilize monthly HQIC reports, coaching calls and resources to advance plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycles and monitor success of interventions



HQI-Provided Tools and Resources, created and/or updated at the request of SoutheastHEALTH.



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