



News Release - IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cleveland Clinic Medical Professionals Take Major Step Towards Eliminating Prescription Opioid Abuse

Cleveland Clinic today announced it has launched a new online prescriber education program for physicians and other healthcare professionals aimed at eliminating patient misuse of prescription painkilling drugs in the wake of Ohio's opioid epidemic. Eight people die each day in Ohio from opioid-related overdoses, with nearly half of those fatalities directly related to prescription painkillers.

Cleveland Clinic has partnered with the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) to offer Smart Rx® – Safe Medicine and Responsible Treatment. Smart Rx® is an hour-long training program and public awareness campaign that brings medical professionals up to date on Ohio's opioid prescribing rules and regulations, best practices for treating pain, and tips for patients on how to appropriately handle and dispose of dangerous prescription drugs.

"No one is immune to the devastating impact opioid abuse has had on our communities and no one – including medical professionals – should retreat from the responsibility to do more to address it," said Brian Donley, MD, Cleveland Clinic's Chief of Staff. "This program provides an additional layer of training and knowledge so that our clinicians are better informed when treating patient pain and determining whether opioids should be part of the treatment plan. Ultimately, our goal is to relieve suffering and save lives."

The OSMA, the state's largest physician-led organization with 16,000 members, started Smart Rx® in 2015. It is the only statewide program of its type, featuring three interactive training modules and professional development credits. More than a half-dozen health systems in Ohio have partnered with the OSMA to deliver the training directly to their employees.

"With Smart Rx® physicians and other healthcare professionals can confidently know they are making informed clinical decisions that are in the best interest of the patient when treating pain," said OSMA CEO Todd Baker. "Through this training, we hope that alternatives to treating pain can emerge, dependency on painkillers will lessen, and fewer people will become addicted to these dangerous drugs."

By partnering with the OSMA, every Cleveland Clinic physician and other healthcare professionals with duties related to treating patients for pain will have access to the Smart Rx® online training program which includes information, statistics, case studies, and other resources presented in interactive videos and featuring interviews with Ohio physicians.

For more information about Smart Rx®, please visit www.OSMA.org/SmartRx or email Reginald Fields at RFields@osma.org.

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Our Mission Statement/ Who We Are

"The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) is dedicated to empowering physicians, residents and medical students to advocate on behalf of their patients and profession." The OSMA is the largest and oldest statewide physician-led association in Ohio. We are affiliated nationally with the American Medical Association and locally with county medical societies. Visit us at www.osma.org.