ER to IR to the ER

The Oxycontin-Oxycodone transition

An evaluation tool for the legitimacy of opioid prescribing
• Number of ER visits from non-medical abuse of Rx narcotics rose 256% between 2004-2009
• In Maine, the state's Office of Substance Abuse reported more than 4 million prescription painkiller pills had been legally prescribed in 2010 -- 5 times the amount legally prescribed in 2006.
• In Ohio, the number of pain pills prescribed has risen by 900% since 1997.
• 1997 production quota of OxyContin is 8.3 tons
• 2011 production quota of OxyContin is 105 tons
• http://www.salem-news.com/articles/october182011/dea-enablers-ms.php

A Recent History of Opioid Consumption/Prescribing in the U.S.
• Compromised prescribers in the greater Los Angeles area
  • Older physicians, financially troubled, not present at clinic
  • Usually “supervising” one or more Physician Assistants

• Monotony of Prescribing of OxyContin 80 mg Qty 90
  • Maximum Monthly Amount Allowed by Most Part D Plans
  • Organized Crime Involved-Disciplined Billing (Once per month)
  • Equates to 7200 mg of Oxycodone per month per beneficiary

Medicare Part D Billing
Prior to September 2010
Reformulated OxyContin
Released August 10, 2010

• September of 2010
  • Complete change of prescribing across the board
  • Oxycodone 30 mg replaces OxyContin 80 mg
  • Usual prescription is now Oxy 30 mg Qty 240
  • Maximum allowed by most Part D Plans
  • Also equates to 7200 mg per month per beneficiary
Abuse of oxycodone HCl controlled release (OxyContin) declined by 49% among individuals being assessed for substance abuse problems in the first 11 months after introduction of reformulated tablets (ORF), a study presented during the American Pain Society's 31st Annual Scientific Meeting has shown.


Reformulated OxyContin Shows Reduced Abuse Levels
Pain Patients Report New Side Effects With Reformulated OxyContin

- Patients report various side effects including diminished pain control, headaches, and nausea
- Street value plummets
Average Street Price Per mg
OxyContin vs Oxycodone 2006-2012 (L.A. HALT)
• Prior to August 2010 Medi-Cal has numerous beneficiaries that, “have tried Kadian, Hydromorphone, Duragesic Patches, Oxycodone, etc.”, without “success”.
• September of 2010 pharmacies in the Medi-Cal system begin to see patients and pharmacies requesting old formulation OxyContin 80 mg.
• Once it is established that old formula of OxyContin 80 mg is not available these same beneficiaries “must now have Oxycodone 30 mg”.

California Department of Health Care Services
- Oxycodone 30 mg
- **Year** | **Dosage Units** | **Medi-Cal Reimbursement**
--- | --- | ---
2006 | 111206 | $123,967
2007 | 159853 | $181,523
2008 | 252449 | $288,292
2009 | 430342 | $515,630
2010 | 720979 | $883,110
2011 | 1013806 | $1,247,631
2012 | ???? | ????

**California DHCS OxyContin vs. Oxycodone 2006-2011**
- OxyContin 80 mg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dosage Units</th>
<th>Medi-Cal Reimbursement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>642689</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>???</td>
<td>???</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

California DHCS OxyContin vs. Oxycodone 2006-2011
CA DHCS Medi-Cal OxyContin 80 mg vs. Oxycodone 30 mg Dosage Units
CA DHCS Medi-Cal Oxycodone 30 mg vs. OxyContin 80 mg Dollars Spent
• Pain Management Specialty Pharmacy-Pacific NW

July 2010
OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 633,280  40%
Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 937,950   60%
Total: 1,571,230

September 2011
OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 205,280  14%
Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 1,301,580  86%
Total: 1,506,860

Evaluation of Dispensing of Pain Management Pharmacies in September 2011
• Pain Management Specialty Pharmacy-Pacific NW

July 2010
OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 240,480  50%
Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 242,070  50%
Total: 482,550

August 2011
OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 102,400  24%
Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 319,050  76%
Total: 421,450

Evaluation of Dispensing of Pain Management Pharmacies in September 2011
Evaluation of Dispensing of Pain Management Pharmacies in September 2011

- **July 2010**
  - OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 404,400 60%
  - Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 270,750 40%
  - Total: 675,150

- **September 2011**
  - OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 402,400 50%
  - Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 399,900 50%
  - Total: 802,300
• Pain Management Specialty Pharmacy-Southern California

• July 2010
  • OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 497,680      73%
  • Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 179,670     27%
  • Total: 677,360

• September 2011
  • OxyContin 80mg total milligrams dispensed: 153,600        9%
  • Oxycodone 30mg total milligrams dispensed: 1,651,020   91%
    (331% Increase)
  • Total: 1,804,620
• Is this Prima Facie evidence of diversion or illegitimate prescribing?
• Is this an indicator of more investigation needed?
• Why would a pain patient being “successfully” treated with an ER medication, such as OxyContin, suddenly seek an IR medication such as Oxycodone 30 mg.
• Why would a prescriber not transition that same patient to another ER medication if the patient indicated OxyContin was no longer working?
• Would this not indicate a complete change in the treatment protocol for a patient that underwent this type of transition and would that not require a detailed justification in the charting for that patient?
• Could this transition be used to evaluate/quantify illicit prescribing?
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