

OPIOID ABUSE IN THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION POPULATION TRANSLATES TO A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BURDEN

Appropriate Interventions Should be Considered to Prevent and Reduce Opioid Abuse

October 2018 News Update

An article in PAIN Practice reported on an analysis of medical and pharmacy claims of Veterans Health Administration patients.¹ Healthcare utilization and costs were assessed to determine opioid abuse prevalence and economic burden. They concluded that opioid abuse is almost 7-fold higher in the Veterans Administration population than in commercial health plans.

Annual healthcare costs for diagnosed opioid abuse patients (\$28,882) were higher than for those without diagnosed abuse (\$13,605).

Reduce Narcotic Prescription Refills with Provant[®] Therapy

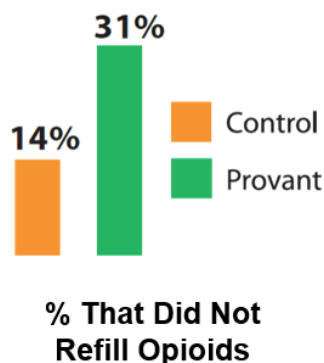
Safe, Non-Drug Pain Management

Medicines, like opioids, have a role in relieving pain. However, long-term opioid use is linked to higher costs and longer hospital stays, due to side effects such as nausea and vomiting, and addiction. Diagnosed opioid abuse is linked to higher healthcare utilization.²

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Provant[®] Therapy Reduced Narcotic Prescription Refills

- Rotator cuff repair patients
- Retrospective analysis
- 36 Provant, 37 Control
- Fewer Provant Therapy patients refilled opioid prescriptions



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1. Prevalence of diagnosed opioid abuse and its economic burden in the veterans health administration. PAIN Practice 2014;14(5):437-45. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/papr.12097>

2. American Society for Health Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) – New Orleans 2011.