

Title: Acute pain treatment by physicians and dentists: Results from a WREN/PEARL collaborative survey

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Abstract: The prevalence of acute pain is not well documented in the literature, yet appears to be very common in primary care practice and commonly occurs after dental procedures. While there is an abundance of medical literature surrounding the issue of pain, a majority is related to chronic pain and the use of narcotics; only 3 studies have been published on acute pain in the last 10 years. Physicians attitudes about acute pain unarguably influence prescribing patterns and adequacy of pain relief; however, this link does not appear to have been well researched or reported. In a collaborative effort, Wisconsin Research and Education Network (WREN) and Practitioners Engaged in Applied Research and Learning (PEARL) will attempt to fill that gap in the literature by unveiling the attitudes and practices related to the treatment of acute pain by primary care clinicians and dentists. Researchers administered two electronic surveys to a sample of 120 WREN clinicians and PEARL dental members. The surveys were designed to extract practitioners' general attitudes toward the treatment of acute pain (e.g. prescribing opioids). As opposed to testing specific research hypotheses, this exploratory study focuses on hypothesis generation for future study proposals. Analyses are primarily descriptive in nature, evaluating the association of demographic variables such as age, gender, and years post granting of terminal degree with attitudes toward acute pain management. Additionally, results offer a comparison and contrast of the attitudes and practices of primary care and dental clinicians.