

Inside The Opioid Crisis: The Role of Mental Health Clinicians

The statistics behind the opioid crisis in the United States compel action from legislative, medical, and psychological stakeholders. This seminar will summarize the history of how we came to this point in the epidemic and reveal what steps (some effective, some misguided) have been taken so far to remedy the tragic outcomes. We will examine our own personal biases toward this heated topic that might influence both how we interpret data trends and also impact our rapport when treating patients with addictive behaviors. We will explore how psychologists and other mental health professionals can assist individuals with Opioid Use Disorder through research, risk assessment, behavioral support for substance abuse recovery programs, therapeutic interventions for chronic pain to minimize opioid use, community education, and patient/professional advocacy. Links to additional resources and book/wookbook recommendations will be provided.

Target Audience

Psychologists
Therapists

Social Workers
Psychiatrists

Counselors
Nurses

Course level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the trends of, factors behind, and misinformation about the recent opioid epidemic.
2. Identify at-risk patients in clinical practice.
3. Select research-based treatments for opioid abuse.
4. Identify barriers to effective treatment.
5. Define the unique roles as a clinician (e.g., therapist, educator, advocate) to help manage the broader crisis.

Seminar Schedule

Typically begins at 12:00 PM and ends at 3:15 PM Eastern time. There is one 15 minute break. However, check the webinar schedule.

Outline

Begin 12 EST

Exploring Personal Biases Toward Opioids and Addiction
Recent Trends and Statistics About the Opioid Crisis
and Overdose Deaths

History of "How We Got to This Point"

Recent Efforts to Curb the Crisis

Break 1:30-1:45 PM EST

Using Appropriate Terminology

Assessing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Medical and Psychological Treatments for OUD

Barriers to Treatment

Psychological Treatments for Chronic Pain

Patient and Community Advocacy

Ends 3:15 EST

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Continuing Education Credit

To earn CE's, you must attend the entire webinar. No partial credit is available. For both the webinar and the home study version, you will have to pass a post-test with 80% correct and complete a seminar evaluation to earn the certificate. You can take the test as many times as necessary to pass. Participants will earn 3 CE's for attending once they have completed these requirements. PSYCHOLOGISTS: tzkseminars is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. tzkseminars maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

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The Presenter

Leanne R. Cianfrini, PhD, is a licensed clinical health psychologist with The Doleys Clinic/Pain and Rehabilitation Center in Birmingham, Alabama. As Program Director, she coordinates community workshops, directs CME/CEU courses for local health care professionals, and develops unique evidence-based interdisciplinary programs for clinic outpatients with a variety of chronic pain conditions. She received her Doctorate in Psychology from the Medical Psychology program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed her clinical internship and postdoctoral fellowship in pain psychology at the University of Florida Health Science Center. Dr. Cianfrini is a member of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, previous Treasurer of the Alabama Psychological Association, and Past President of the Southern Pain Society. She has presented several research posters at national pain meetings and is coauthor of several book chapters on psychological variables in pain management. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at UAB. Her recent clinical interests focus on pain coping skills vs. acceptance-based therapy and mindfulness techniques, reducing sleep disturbance using cognitive behavioral therapy, and educating patients on realistic expectations for and safe use of opioids in the context of multidisciplinary pain management.

General Information

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Phil Rich, LICSW, and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2022.

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