

MINUTES: MedChi Opioid, Pain & Addictions Committee – March 18, 2025 (virtual)

ATTENDING:

Alyssa Mills, MedChi Staff	Dr. Drew Fuller	Dr. James Taylor
Dr. Joe Adams, Chair	Dr. Sarah Merritt	Dr. Erica Isles
Dr. Don Teater, guest presenter	Dr. Chris Welch	Dr. Enrique Oviedo
Dr. Dan Morhaim	Dr. Sangeeta Iyer	Dr. Michael Abrams
Brian Ricci: PDMP Coordinator	Dr. Mitra Ahadpour	Marian Currens CR
Adrian Catwell: PDMP Analyst	Dr. Lauren Reck	Dr. Lorraine Milio

PRESENTATION: ‘Doctors Receive Opioid Training, Big Pharma Funds It, What Could Go Wrong? (Addressing the Role of Opioids In Chronic Pain: Opportunity For Overdose Prevention?)
Joe Adams gave an abbreviated slide presentation: a critique of the Opioid REMS courses.

Dr. Adams introduced guest presenter Don Teater, MD, MPH. Teater Health Solutions: <https://teaterhs.com>, former lead facilitator of the CDC opioids guidelines expert panel, former medical advisor at the National Safety Council leading their effort to reduce OUD and OD. Co-author of the book: Treating Chronic Pain. Dr. Teater's two training modules are part of the [ASAM Pain & Addiction Essentials Online](#). MedChi agreed to record a new version of his presentation and make it available online for CME without a paywall.

PRESENTATION: Don Teater gave an abbreviated presentation on Basics of Effective Pain Management, and led a discussion with Q & A.

DISCUSSION:

Selected highlights:

Dr. Teater noted that he rarely prescribes opioids, and if so, it’s almost always buprenorphine due to it’s relative safety, and that it potentially reduces depression.

He noted that some studies suggest buprenorphine improves hyperalgesia resulting from the prior use of use of opioids. He suspects clinically that some individuals may be rapid metabolizers of buprenorphine, possibly requiring higher than usual doses, but is not aware of published information on this.

Dr. Morhaim noted that, especially between 1998 & 2001, there were dozens of pain bills introduced in the Maryland legislature encouraging the increased use of opioids, and that the Board of Physicians newsletter stated that 'The problem is physician reluctance to use morphine' and provided a hotline to Purdue Pharmaceuticals representatives.

NEXT MEETING: Tue, May 20th, 6:30 – 8pm, virtual (3rd Tuesdays of alternating months)
Tentative topic: Practical benzodiazepine tapering from a clinician with extensive experience, and addressing potential harms of benzodiazepines.

Minutes by Dr. Adams