

Managing Opioid Risk in Active Service Members and Veterans





Opioid Analgesic REMS-Compliant Education

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AKH Inc., Advancing Knowledge in Healthcare and the Veterans Health and Wellness Foundation (VHWF) have been awarded an independent medical education (IME) grant by the Opioid Analgesic REMS Program Companies ("RPC") to educate prescribers and other healthcare providers about the treatment and monitoring of patients with pain. This education is compliant with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Opioid Analgesic Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) educational requirements. The goal of the <u>Opioid Analgesic REMS</u> is to reduce the risk of serious adverse outcomes from prescription opioid analgesics.

AKH and VHWF have two independent continuing education (CE) activities, an adaptive learning online activity (available now) and a virtual live summit (March 22, 2025), for professionals who care/may care for active-duty military members and Veterans. Both educational options inform healthcare providers about optimal opioid prescribing practices and demonstrate methods to address substance use disorder and prevent deaths from overdose. This education will help you ensure that the benefits of opioid therapy outweigh the risks, while maintaining patient access to necessary pain medications. The activities were developed *by the team for the team*, including physicians, physician associates, nurse practitioners, psychologists, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and social workers. This REMS-compliant accredited CE was based on the <u>Opioid Analgesic REMS Education Blueprint for Health Care Providers</u> Involved in the Treatment and Monitoring of Patients with Pain ("FDA Blueprint"), which contains core educational messages regarding the safe prescribing of opioid analgesics.

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Collaborators

AKH and VHWF worked collaboratively with specialists in substance pharmacology and the assessment and management of substance use disorders from the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT). ACMT is a membership association of physicians who specialize in medical toxicology.

AKH Inc., Advancing Knowledge in Healthcare

AKH is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team. Through Joint Accreditation, AKH is also approved to provide credit to Physician Associates (AAPA), Dentists (ADA CERP), Psychologists (APA), Social Workers (ASWB), Certified Athletic Trainers (BOC), Interprofessional Continuing Education (IPCE), and Nurse Practitioners (AANP). As an independent provider of accredited continuing education for healthcare professionals, it is the mission of AKH Inc. to provide comprehensive and innovative continuing educational activities in support of efforts by individuals, healthcare facilities, professional organizations, and professional societies.

Veterans Health and Wellness Foundation (VHWF)

The Veterans Health and Wellness Foundation (VHWF) is a 501c3 charitable entity and was formally known as the Warrior Centric Healthcare Foundation (WCHF). The Foundation was rebranded in February 2021 to more accurately align with the mission, vision, and services provided. It was established in 2013 by military Veterans with expertise in the areas of health, wellness, and health care delivery with a mission to educate, train, and engage healthcare professionals and communities about the impact of military service on the health of Veterans and their families across the nation. The VHWF itself serves as a framework for the alignment and integration of healthcare support services, advocacy, and actionable knowledge that provides an opportunity for Veterans to live healthy and well lives, undiminished by their service-related health concerns.

American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT):

ACMT is a professional, nonprofit association of physicians with recognized expertise in medical toxicology, dedicated to advancing the science and practice of medical toxicology through research, education, and advocacy.