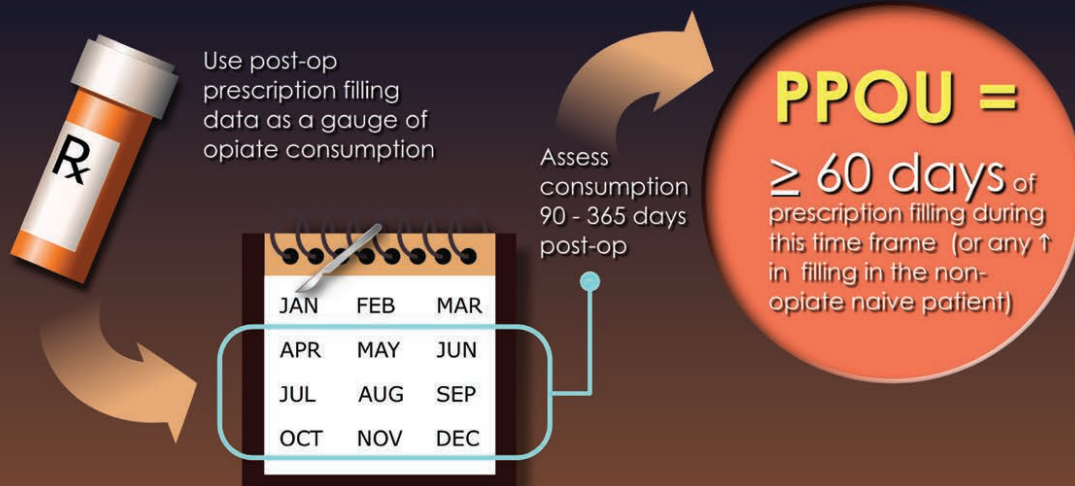
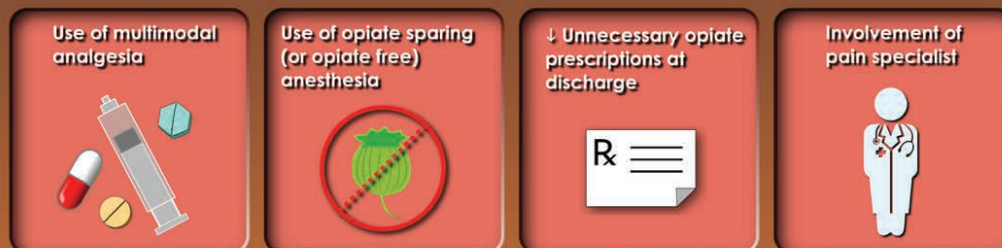


Thwarting the Opiate Crisis: Emerging Recommendations to Reduce Opiate Abuse

Currently, there exists no consistent definition of persistent postoperative opiate use (PPOU). A critical first step in mitigating postoperative opiate abuse is in recognizing excessive consumption. The American Society of Enhanced Recovery (ASER) and Perioperative Quality Initiative (POQI) offer the following joint consensus recommendations in defining PPOU.^{1,2}



Furthermore, ASER and POQI established a consensus statement on perioperative opiate minimization summarized below.^{3,4}



Additionally, efforts should be made toward patient education and optimization of psychosocial needs.

The characterization and prospective management of perioperative analgesia in the context of the opiate crisis are just beginning to take shape. An important initial observation is that there exists no agreed upon definition of persistent postoperative opiate use. This infographic summarizes the consensus statement from the American Society for Enhanced Recovery (ASER) and Perioperative Quality Initiative (POQI) on identifying this condition. This largely involves an assessment of prescription refills over a defined period of time after discharge. In addition, a panel of international experts through ASER and the POQI offers their recommendations on perioperative minimization of opiate use that includes opiate-sparing anesthesia, multimodal analgesia, reduction in opiate prescriptions on discharge, and the use of a pain specialist for guidance. For the complete consensus recommendations, the reader is referred to the cited articles herein.

ASER indicates American Society for Enhanced Recovery; POQI, Perioperative Quality Initiative.

The Infographic is composed by Naveen Nathan, MD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (n-nathan@northwestern.edu). Illustration by Naveen Nathan, MD.

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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