



**TITLE:** Evaluation of Opioid Use for Patients with Chronic Non-Cancer Pain: Clinical Evidence

**DATE:** 04 June 2012

## **RESEARCH QUESTION**

What is the clinical evidence evaluating inappropriate use of opioids by patients with chronic non-cancer pain, using administrative databases?

## **KEY MESSAGE**

Seven non-randomized studies using administrative databases to evaluate inappropriate use of opioids by patients with chronic non-cancer pain were identified.

## **METHODS**

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2012, Issue 5), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and abbreviated lists of major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2002 and May 29, 2012. Internet links were provided, where available.

## **RESULTS**

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

Seven non-randomized studies using administrative databases to evaluate inappropriate use of opioids by patients with chronic non-cancer pain were identified. No relevant health technology

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assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified.

### **Health Technology Assessments**

No literature identified.

### **Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses**

No literature identified.

### **Randomized Controlled Trials**

No literature identified.

### **Non-Randomized Studies**

1. Nordbo A, Skurtveit S, Borchgrevink PC, Kaasa S, Fredheim OM. Low-dose transdermal buprenorphine - long-term use and co-medication with other potentially addictive drugs. *Acta Anaesthesiol Scand*. 2012 Jan;56(1):88-94.  
[PubMed: PM22092357](#)
2. Gomes T, Mamdani MM, Dhalla IA, Paterson JM, Juurlink DN. Opioid dose and drug-related mortality in patients with nonmalignant pain. *Arch Intern Med [Internet]*. 2011 Apr 11 [cited 2012 May 31];171(7):686-91. Available from:  
<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?doi=10.1001/archinternmed.2011.117>  
[PubMed: PM21482846](#)
3. Gomes T, Juurlink DN, Dhalla IA, Mailis-Gagnon A, Paterson JM, Mamdani MM. Trends in opioid use and dosing among socio-economically disadvantaged patients. *Open Med [Internet]*. 2011 [cited 2012 May 31];5(1):e13-e22. Available from:  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3205807>  
[PubMed: PM22046214](#)
4. Skurtveit S, Furu K, Borchgrevink P, Handal M, Fredheim O. To what extent does a cohort of new users of weak opioids develop persistent or probable problematic opioid use? *Pain*. 2011 Jul;152(7):1555-61.  
[PubMed: PM21450405](#)
5. Fitzgibbon DR, Rathmell JP, Michna E, Stephens LS, Posner KL, Domino KB. Malpractice claims associated with medication management for chronic pain. *Anesthesiology [Internet]*. 2010 Apr [cited 2012 May 31];112(4):948-56. Available from:  
[http://journals.lww.com/anesthesiology/Fulltext/2010/04000/Malpractice\\_Claims\\_Associated\\_with\\_Medication.27.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/anesthesiology/Fulltext/2010/04000/Malpractice_Claims_Associated_with_Medication.27.aspx)  
[PubMed: PM20234314](#)
6. Wang J, Christo PJ. The influence of prescription monitoring programs on chronic pain management. *Pain Physician*. 2009 May;12(3):507-15.  
[PubMed: PM19461820](#)

7. Hermos JA, Young MM, Gagnon DR, Fiore LD. Characterizations of long-term oxycodone/acetaminophen prescriptions in veteran patients. Arch Intern Med [Internet]. 2004 Nov 22 [cited 2012 May 31];164(21):2361-6. Available from:  
<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?doi=10.1001/archinte.164.21.2361>  
[PubMed: PM15557416](#)

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