



2023 Older Adults & Opioids Webinar Series

In Nov. 2021, the CDC released provisional data indicating there were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the US during 12-month period ending in April 2021, an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before. Deaths increased from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl), methamphetamines, cocaine, and semi-synthetic opioids (such as prescription pain medication). Older adults are included in these numbers but often overlooked as a vulnerable population in this area. Co-sponsored by the FLGEC and the WNY R-AHEC, this Zoom webinar series will highlight unique approaches to care of special populations as well as the current challenges providing services to older adults.

The FLGEC collaborated with the Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (WNY R-AHEC) to host a series of online education sessions in 2022. These webinar recordings can be accessed here and/or on YouTube:

SAFE-HOME Opioid Management Education in Older Adults

In the US, 174 people die every day from an opioid-related overdose. Naloxone is a highly effective drug that can reverse an opioid overdose if administered in time, typically by someone who is on the scene when, or shortly after, an overdose occurs. Despite its life-saving capabilities, naloxone is underutilized. Opioid overdose, misuse, and naloxone education has been shown to be most effective when provided directly in the community setting. The SAFE-HOME Naloxone and Opioid Awareness Program trains care coordinators, home health care workers, and high-risk, community-dwelling older adults on opioid overdose and appropriate access and use of naloxone to educate and empower their patients in the midst of the opioid epidemic. This interactive presentation will provide an overview of the SAFE-HOME program.

- **Recorded on** Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 12pm - 1pm ET
- Abigail Elmes, PharmD, Rush University
- <https://youtu.be/RBuGbApi80I>

Toxic Stress, Opiates, and Older Adults: Bringing Compassion and Hope

This session will begin with a short overview of trauma and trauma responsive care. We will examine the impact of stigma and shame on older adults. We will explore an approach that enhances compassion and acceptance for the older adults we serve. We will consider how the Motivational Interviewing “way of being” and trauma responsive principles can lead the way to a conversation that builds safety, trust, and hope. We will explore hope and how our compassionate presence can “make the unbearable, bearable”?

- **Recorded on** Friday, March 10, 2023, 12pm - 1pm ET
- Cheryl L. Martin, MA, RN, CASAC-M, Coordinated Care Services, Inc.
- <https://youtu.be/PoG2GlrJO0s>

Evaluating Age as a Predictor of Postoperative Opioid Use and Prescribing Habits in Older Adults with Cancer

Older adults with cancer represent a challenging subset of patients to treat with respect to pain management, particularly those who undergo oncologic resection. Surgical providers have a critical role to play in primary prevention of chronic opioid use and addiction. Given that patients with cancer represent a substantial population of patients receiving opioids – and many patients with cancer are older – investigating patterns of opioid use in this population is a priority. We therefore analyzed patterns of opioid use and discharge opioid prescriptions in older and younger patients after resection for cancer within a large tertiary academic center.

- **Recorded on** Tuesday April 18, 2023, 12pm - 1pm ET
- Alexa Melucci, MD, MS, Department of Surgery, University of Rochester Medical Center
- <https://youtu.be/sN6HPm4OWMw>

Older Women and Opioids

Opioid use disorder is prevalent among older women, particularly when there is multi-morbidity. This presentation will review symptoms of opioid use disorder in older women and how to incorporate treatment protocols.

- **Recorded on** Tuesday May 9, 2023, 12pm - 1pm ET
- Olivera J. Bogunovic, MD, Medical Director of Ambulatory Services, Division of Alcohol, Drugs, and Addiction; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
- <https://youtu.be/-QvJgt3Oca8>

Opioid Overdose Prevention – Narcan Training

The opioid epidemic continues to exist, stressing the importance of early recognition of an individual experiencing an overdose. Now more than ever the importance of having Narcan readily available and the knowledge on the use of Narcan can and will save lives. Understanding how the Good Samaritan Law will impact those administering the medication will alleviate the fear in providing care. Understanding the importance in call 911 for all overdoses, as this is frequently the individual's first introduction to potential care for their substance use disorder. Reporting the use of Narcan will provide important data to the State, which in turn can turn into increased funding to address this issue.

- **Recorded on** Thursday June 15, 2023, 12pm - 1pm
- Charlotte Crawford, RN, MSN, MBA, Consultant
- <https://youtu.be/fUoeRVbhPPM>