

**Opioid CE Program  
Dr. Steve Krakora  
March 23, 2019**

**“Prescribing Opioids in Dentistry:  
Requirements, Responsibilities, and Alternatives”**

**Presenter:**

Paul A. Moore DMD, PhD, MPH

**Synopsis:**

Safe and effective treatment of acute postoperative pain is essential for patient satisfaction and successful practice in dentistry. Because of the growing crisis from illicit and prescription opioid abuse in Pennsylvania, dentists and other practitioners treating acute and chronic pain must understand the risks and benefits of prescribing opioid analgesics such as hydrocodone and oxycodone. This two-hour presentation will illustrate how to identifying patients at risk for substance abuse and assure proper patient selection. The use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) has been shown to be extremely valuable for discouraging drug seeking behaviors in the dental office. Several non-opioid strategies are commonly employed in dental practices that can improve the efficacy of acute postoperative pain management. Pennsylvania state legislation requires added responsibilities when prescribing opioid analgesics such as Vicodin® and Percocet®. Alternative strategies may decrease the reliance on prescription opioid pain relievers following dental surgery.

**Learning Objectives:**

Following this presentation, the participants will be able to:

1. Explain the rationale for combining the two peripherally-acting analgesics acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and ibuprofen (Advil®).
2. Understand the importance of recent changes in DEA drug scheduling that have been made in opioid/acetaminophen analgesic formulations such as Vicodin ES®.

3. Discuss Pennsylvania state legislative requirements for prescribing immediate-acting opioids for acute pain in dentistry.
4. List factors that may contribute to their dental patients being at greater risk of opioid abuse following dental surgery.
5. Provide at least four instructional elements required for counseling patients for safe and responsible prescribing of opioids following a dental procedure.

**Biosketch:**

Dr. Paul A. Moore received his DMD and a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. His professional career has included private practice in Oakmont PA, a hospital residency in dental anesthesiology at the Presbyterian Hospital Medical Center in Pittsburgh, a postdoctoral fellowship in chronic pain management at the University of North Carolina, and faculty appointments at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, and Forsyth Dental Center. Dr. Moore has served as Director of the Oral Health Science Institute, Director of Research, Director of Graduate Education, and Chair of the Department of Dental Anesthesiology for the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He has published extensively on dental therapeutics including analgesics, local anesthetics and sedation. He is a member of the editorial boards of several journals including the Journal of American Dental Association. He has recently been appointed to the Council for Scientific Affairs for the ADA, the AMA Task Force for Preventing Opioid Abuse, the University of Pittsburgh Working Group for Addressing Opioids in PA, The Joint Commission subcommittee for Opioid Use, the FDA workshop for Health Care Training, the U.S. Surgeon General's Expert Panel of Prescription Drug Abuse and the National Academy of Medicine subcommittee preparing a White Paper addressing the Opioid Epidemic in the U.S.