OPIOIDS & A TYPICAL HOME CARE PATIENT

DR. LESLEY CARSON

PENN MEDICINE GERIATRICS
OPIOIDS & A TYPICAL HOME CARE PATIENT

Ms H.C. is an 80 year old woman enrolled in the In Home Program by her daughter; the patient has become increasingly forgetful and reluctant to come into the office.

Medical Problems: Alcohol Use, COPD, Spinal Stenosis, CHF, CKD, Gastritis, Poorly Defined Progressive Dementia.
Ms. H.C. Continued

Ms. H.C. complains of lower back pain and aching in her legs. She has difficulty climbing stairs in her row house and has had a number of falls. She has periodic chest pain and abdominal pain.

Ms. H.C. medicates herself with nine prescription medications and a number of herbal remedies. She feels she can manage her medications herself.
Ms. H.C. will accept help from her granddaughter for her bathing and grooming and at times her medications. She will also let a grandson help her. She has a walker, wheelchair, commode, hospital bed. She lives with several cats and the two grands.

Her daughter is the emergency contact and responsible party; she does not live with Ms. H.C. but does visit her frequently.

Ms. H.C. is happy with a clutter of 80 years of memorabilia in her home.
Ms. H.C. Continued

The daughter is not present for the first visit but calls in to request a refill of the patient’s oxycodone which has been prescribed at a dosage of 5 mg every 4 hours for a long time.
SHOULD WE REFILL THE OXYCODONE?

CONSIDERATIONS
IS THERE PAIN? WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE PAIN?
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• APPEARANCE—OBSERVATION
• PATIENT TESTIMONY
• CAREGIVER TESTIMONY
• NEUROPATHIC VS NOCICEPTIVE
SHOULD WE CONTINUE THE OXYCODONE?
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• RISKS VS BENEFITS
• OTHER MEDICATIONS
• COMORBIDITIES
• ALTERNATIVES
• HISTORY OF USE
IS THERE AN OPIOID USE AGREEMENT?

WHO SIGNS THE AGREEMENT?
IS THERE AN OPIOID USE AGREEMENT? WHO SIGNS THE AGREEMENT?

• PATIENT WITH DEMENTIA?
• CAREGIVER HANDLING THE PILLS?
• ABSENT RESPONSIBLE PARTY?
• OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HOUSE?
HOW SHOULD WE MONITOR USE?
HOW SHOULD WE MONITOR USE?

• PILL COUNT?
• URINE DRUG TEST?
• FREQUENT VISITS?
• PHONE CALLS?
• SIDE EFFECTS?
MEDICATION REFILL

• MONTHLY OR LESS FREQUENTLY?
• DESIGNATED MD OR NP ONLY VS COVERING PROVIDER?
• WHEN DO WE CONSIDER A TAPER IF EVER?
SHOULD WE PRESCRIBE NALOXONE

• HISTORY OF DRUG OVERDOSE?
• SEVERE OPIOID USE DISORDER?
• HIGHER OPIOID DOSAGE?
• CONCURRENT BENZODIAZEPINES?