

## Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2019

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**Project Title:** Resident Attitudes Towards Naloxone and Prescription Practices

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**Advisor Names(s):** Dr. Anna Laurie / Dr. Edward Jouney

**Branch:** Patients & Populations

**Path of Excellence:**

**Handover/Transition:**

If this project can be continued by another UMMS student, you may contact them at the following email address/phone number (N/A if project cannot be handed over): **N/A**

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### **Summary:**

The goal of the project was to ascertain the attitudes of residents towards Naloxone and their prescription practices. Given the scope of opioid related deaths, it is essential that physicians prescribe Naloxone often and freely. However, before intervention can educate, it is important to understand the prescription practice and attitudes of providers. To this aim, the following survey was conducted in conjunction with the Addiction Psychiatry department and distributed electronically to residents at UMMS.

### **Methodology:**

This was an IRB-exempt, anonymous survey using Google Qualtrics. The study population was 103 residents from multiple programs at UMM. Program directors were contacted and asked to send the survey link to their residents. The survey collected individual residency program, residency program year, and answers to 35 multiple-choice questions regarding prescription practices and attitudes towards Naloxone.

### **Results/Conclusion:**

The first part of the study, on prescription practices of residents, showed that slightly more than half of the respondents have been trained to use Naloxone in an overdose situation, but less than half in how to prescribe it. Still fewer have actually administered or prescribed Naloxone. This despite having many of their patients struggling with opioids and in need of overdose prevention measures.

A similar pattern was seen in the second part of the study concerning the resident attitudes toward Naloxone, where across the board residents had a favorable opinion toward Naloxone, but were unfamiliar or uncomfortable prescribing it to their patients.

Given the epidemic levels of opioid-related deaths, and the AMA Opioid Task Force recent guidance "encouraging physicians to consider co-prescribing Naloxone to patients at risk of opioid overdose or those who might be able to help someone at risk", it is important to ensure all people being prescribed opioids have

this lifesaving medication at home. Thus , it is essential that all UMMS residents be exposed to Naloxone education and feel comfortable prescribing it when necessary.

**Reflection/Lessons Learned:**

There is a strong need for Naloxone education at UMMS