Ministry Medical Group - Managing Pain, Improving Lives

As you know, Ministry Medical Group has adopted the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board (MEB) Opioid Prescribing Guideline as the framework for prescribing opioid analgesics for chronic non-cancer pain. This guideline applies to all primary care providers and specialists who prescribe opioid analgesics to adult patients (> 18 years) for the management of chronic non-cancer pain. This guideline does not apply to patients who are in active cancer treatment, receiving palliative care, or at end-of-life.

Understanding the role of palliative care in pain management will promote a positive patient experience while decreasing provider frustration.

Palliative care is first and foremost person-centered care. We work to relieve or prevent suffering in all forms with a goal to improve the quality of life for patients and their families. The work of palliative care is intended to provide an additional layer of support for patients and families living with serious illness.

Specialty Palliative Care services include:

- Treatment of pain and other symptoms associated with serious illness
- Advance care planning with open discussion of treatment choices and patient goals of care
- Assistance in understanding of medical diagnosis, prognosis and treatment options
- Development of a plan of care that honors the values and beliefs of the patient and family while recognizing the medical reality
- Connection to the spiritual and emotional wellness that is important to each patient and family

Palliative care can be a resource to developing a plan for pain management for the appropriate patient. Our commitment as a consult service is to work collaboratively with our care partners (for example: hospitalists, primary care providers) to identify strategies for pain management for the patient with serious illness.

Palliative care is not necessarily the answer for the patient with difficult to manage chronic pain and addiction issues. Together, we can work to meet the challenge of pain in the context of serious illness and ensure high-quality, personalized care for this vulnerable population.

For questions, contact Ann Patek, RN, MSN, Director of Palliative Care, Ascension Wisconsin North Region, Ann.Patek@ascension.org or Olumuyiwa Adeboye MD, Medical Director of Palliative Care, Ascension Wisconsin North Region, Olumuyiwa.Adeboye@ascension.org