OPIOIDS
Definition: A class of analgesic agents including:
* Poppy derivatives (ex. opium)
* Prescription pain relievers (ex. oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, morphine)
* Illegal drugs (ex. heroin)

Importance: Addictive potential and heavy current scrutiny on physician prescribing patterns

Mechanism of action: Through blood stream to receptors on nerve cells in the brain, producing:
* Euphoria
* Tranquility
* Sedation
OPIOIDS

Reasons for physician scrutiny:
* 69 million cases of opioid abuse worldwide (2014 World Health Organization)
* Opioid involved deaths nearly quadrupled since 1999 (CDC)
* 116 opioid overdose deaths daily in US (in 2016 (HHS))
* Patients “share” unused prescriptions and “doctor shop”
OPIOIDS

Resources for physicians:
* Preoperative pain therapy consults
* Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) to collect, monitor, and analyze electronically transmitted prescribing and dispensing data (pharmacies and practitioners)
* CDC guideline on pain management
* Non-opioid pain regimens (consult literature)
* AMA short list of steps every physician can do to prevent opioid abuse
* #TurnTheTide Campaign by the Surgeon General
OPIOIDS REFERENCES