



The Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center and the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center present

2024 Older Adults and Opioids Webinar Series

Co-sponsored by the FLGEC and the WNY R-AHEC, this 6-session Zoom webinar series will highlight unique approaches to care of special populations as well as the current challenges providing services to older adults in the general population. These webinar recordings can be accessed here and/or on the WNY R-AHEC's YouTube channel.

A Public Health Approach to the Overdose Epidemic

Presenter: *Chinazo Cunningham, MD, MS, Commissioner, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (NYS OASAS)*

Date: Friday January 26, 2024, 12pm—1pm ET

Commissioner Cunningham will discuss the current status of the overdose epidemic in New York State. She will describe New York State's priorities and approaches to addressing the epidemic, including unique aspects of addiction and services involving older adults.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/uFO2bRmIYAg>

Perceptions of Substance Use with Older Adults

Presenter: *Diana Padilla, MCPC, CARC, CASAC-T, Research Project Manager, NYS Psychiatric Institute, Columbia University Medical Center, Opioid Response Network, Region 2*

Date: Thursday February 15, 2024, 12pm—1pm ET

The presentation will explore how the stigma of substance use (SU) with older adults underscore the lack of SU screening and will inform and educate on age related challenges with SU, medication adherence, and person-centered brief intervention approaches. Content will also review caregiver challenges and their potential for substance use.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/f3RuGVR0SWk>

Opioid Use Disorder in Older Adults

Presenter: *Abhilash Desai, MD, Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Washington School of Medicine, Idaho Track*

Date: Friday March 15, 2024, 12pm—1pm ET

Opioid misuse (OM) and opioid use disorders (OUD) are prevalent in older adults. A primary strategy for reducing risk of OM and OUD in older adults involves minimizing use of long-term opioid therapy for chronic pain management. Early accurate diagnosis is key to preventing complications such as overdose deaths and improving quality of life. Routine screening for OM and OUD is recommended in primary care. OUD in older adults is eminently treatable and treatment involves a combination of pharmacological interventions and psychosocial spiritual interventions. Buprenorphine is the key pharmacological intervention for the treatment of OUD in older adults.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/en5K2LSGADA>

Medical Marijuana and Older Adults

Presenter: *Timothy J. Holahan, DO, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Rochester Medical Center*

Date: Tuesday April 23, 2024, 12pm—1pm ET

This presentation will review the use of medical marijuana and CBD in older adults in multiple care settings and outline the benefits and cautions while considering its use in older adults. We will also discuss appropriate dosing, formulations, and review the current literature regarding medical marijuana use.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/HTXLTkNTuu8>

Aging, the Opioid Epidemic, and Care Considerations for Native Communities

Presenters: *Savannah Gene, CHES, Program Director, Community Health Education Resiliency Program, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board, and Benjamin H. Nguyễn, MSW, LCSW, CPH, Public Mental Health Consultant; Private Practice Psychotherapist; Managing Director, Westside Pacific Villages*

Date: Tuesday May 21, 2024 - 12pm—1pm ET

The presentation will look at the prevalence of opioid use among older people. A broad biopsychosocial framework and sociohistorical lens will be utilized to analyze risk factors and vulnerabilities for substance use among older people. The presentation will conclude with care considerations that integrate psychosocial aspects of well-being.

Recording: https://youtu.be/le5nx_DKAog

Opioid Overdose Prevention - Narcan Training

Presenter: *Charlotte Crawford, RN, MSN, MBA, Consultant*

Date: Friday June 14, 2024, 12pm—1pm ET

The opioid epidemic continues to exist, stressing the importance of early recognition of an individual experiencing an overdose. Now more than ever the importance of having Narcan readily available and the knowledge on the use of Narcan can and will save lives. Understanding how the Good Samaritan Law will impact those administering the medication will alleviate the fear in providing care. Understanding the importance in calling 911 for all overdoses, as this is frequently the individual's first introduction to potential care for their substance use disorder. Reporting the use of Narcan will provide important data to the State, which in turn can turn into increased funding to address this issue.

Recording: <https://youtu.be/DCgNijg45zQ>