One subset of patients was noted to have >80% of their prescribed opioid left over after treating their pain at home. This information was shared with the prescribing surgeons. We then provided education for these surgeons regarding pain management. After initiation of revised prescribing patterns, data was collected from a second comparable group to evaluate the effectiveness of the educational intervention.

Our hospital conducted a review of prescribing patterns for post-operative patients. All surgical patients in the review period were phoned post-operatively to obtain the following information:

- Number of opioid doses prescribed
- Number of opioid doses used
- Effectiveness of pain control at home
- Disposition of remaining opioid pain medication.

**Methods**

**Conclusion**

After physician education there was a significant reduction in both the amount of opioids prescribed as well as the amount of unused opioid left over. In addition, all patients reported good pain control despite the reduction in prescribed opioids. There is still much room for improvement and we are working with surgeons and trainees to further improve our process.

**Results**

One subset of patients was noted to have >80% of their prescribed opioid left over after treating their pain at home. This information was shared with the prescribing surgeons. We then provided education for these surgeons regarding pain management. After initiation of revised prescribing patterns, data was collected from a second comparable group to evaluate the effectiveness of the educational intervention.

**Post-education practices demonstrated:**

- 71% decrease in doses prescribed
- 78% decrease in unused doses

All patients reported effective pain control.