

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE OREGON PAIN MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO REVIEW OREGON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PAIN MANAGEMENT CURRICULA

Oregon Revised Statute 409.510 requires the Oregon Pain Management Commission (OPMC) to review pain management curricula of Oregon educational institutions. The commission is directed to make recommendations about legislation needed to ensure that adequate information about pain management is included in the curricula reviewed. The commission is directed to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly by January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

The following curricula were reviewed and discussed by OPMC members during this biennium:

- John White, OTR/L, PhD, Program Director, presented an overview of the pain management curriculum that is taught in the School of Occupational Therapy at Pacific University Oregon. He noted that the OT program is now transitioning from a master's degree level of preparation (OTM) to a doctoral level of education (OTD). The OTD program will add an additional 8 hours of continuing education units on pain. The guiding concepts of the school's OT education include: client-centered collaboration; a bio-psycho-social understanding of human performance; and a Person-Environment-Occupation Interaction and Performance. The OTD is a general practitioner with specialty focus. Pain management is taught with pain content integrated throughout the curriculum: pain content is a total of 16 hours; 7 courses explicitly address pain in units of 1 to 3 hours (for a total of 10 hours) and there is a pain management unit of 6 hours in the final year. Pain management emphasizes inter-professional responsibility, non-biomedical approaches supportive of medical intervention and focuses on activities of daily living interventions and evidence-based practice as a key element in clinical reasoning.
- Mary Von, PA-C, DHEd, Associate Professor, Academic Coordinator PA Program and Robert Rosenow, PharmD, OD, Professor, presented an overview of the pain management curriculum that is taught in the School of Physician Assistant Studies at Pacific University Oregon. The PA program

utilizes a modular structure. Pain management topics are spread throughout the modules. A diverse array of topics is covered and includes (not exclusively) the following: assessment of and appropriate pain assessment tools; inadequate pain control; “pain as a fifth vital sign;” Pain Patient’s Bill of Rights; federal and state regulations related to pain management; physiologic responses to acute and chronic pain, looking at chronicity of pain; differentiating between acute and chronic pain and the differences in treatment; pain pathways and the subjective nature of pain; consequences of inadequate pain management; Complementary and Alternative Medicine in treatment of pain; pain treatment agreements; characteristics of all classes of opioids; rational opioid use, including appropriate selection based on individual patient characteristics; contraindications and adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and managing ADRs; use of alternative drugs. Bio-social aspects of chronic pain are addressed in the behavioral health module. Case studies are shared throughout the modules and students have opportunities in the simulation lab to participate in scenarios that simulate patients in pain. Mandatory case conferences emphasize an interprofessional curriculum where students work in teams (with students from seven other Pacific University health programs).

OPMC members were impressed with these presentations. The OPMC recommended that the School of Physician Assistant Studies at Pacific University Oregon consider developing a separate module that integrates and incorporates all aspects of the treatment of chronic pain management; however, the OPMC identified no deficiencies in pain management curricula for either of these programs. Therefore, at this time the commission has no legislative recommendations regarding institutional pain management curricula.

This report is respectfully submitted by the OPMC on January 8, 2013.

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<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPR/Pages/pmc/index.aspx>

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