

Discharge Dilemmas;

An audit of surgical patient discharge opioid prescribing practices

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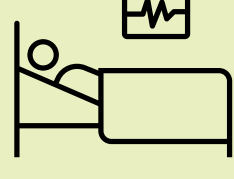
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BACKGROUND:

Opioid prescribing rates are continuing to increase in Australia with parallel increases in opioid-related morbidity and mortality, including dependence and overdose. Opioids are responsible for¹:

 150 hospitalisations per day

 1,119 fatal overdoses in 2016

 14 Hospital ED presentations per day

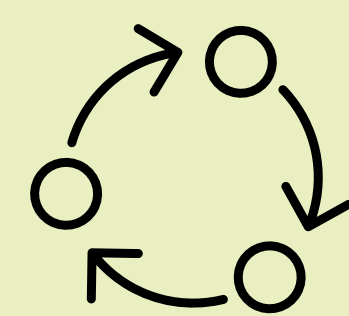
 3 deaths per day

The Opioid Analgesic Stewardship in Acute Pain Clinical Care Standards outline quality statements and local indicators for health service organisations to monitor appropriate opioid analgesic prescribing².

METHODS:

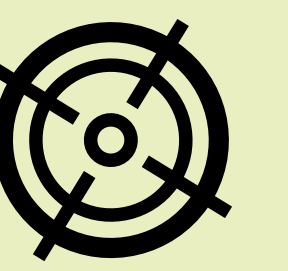
- A retrospective audit of surgical patients receiving opioid scripts on discharge from Nov 2022 to Jan 2023

- Patient records were examined to determine;
 Opioid naivety status
 Inpatient analgesia prescribed and administered,
 Acute Pain Service (APS) consult
 Discharge opioid prescribed.



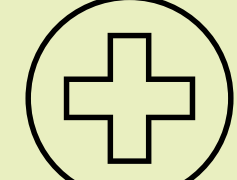
AIM:

To evaluate opioid prescribing practices for surgical patients discharged from a large regional hospital.



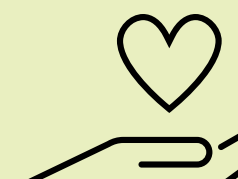
RESULTS:

We identified 382 surgical patients prescribed opioids on discharge.

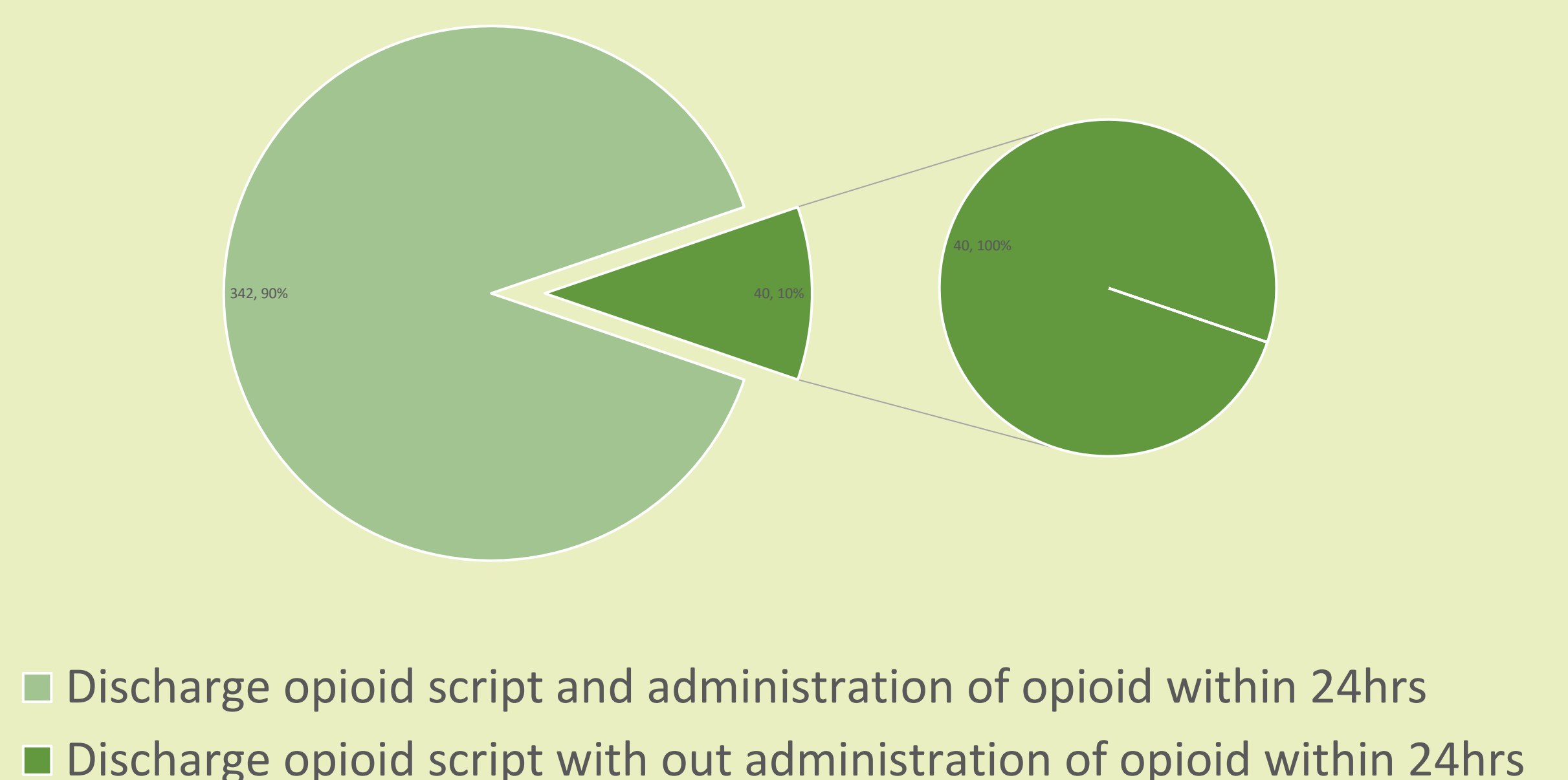
 32% (121/382) were opioid naive at admission

 97% (370/382) received non-opioid analgesia

 24% (93/382) received APS consultation

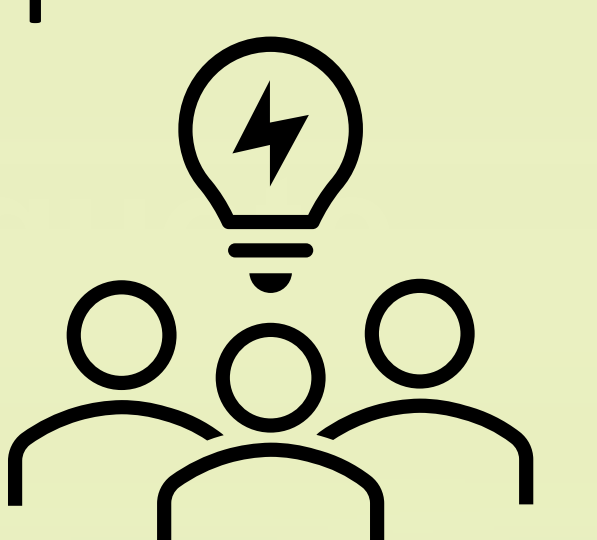
 10% (40/382) were not administered opioids 24 hours prior to discharge

ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOIDS 24 HOURS PRIOR TO DISCHARGE AND DISCHARGE PRESCRIPTIONS



ACTION PLAN:

1. Pharmacists should consider opioid stewardship principles to support judicious prescribing on discharge
2. Pharmacists should be integrated into APS teams
3. Discharge opioid prescribing should be tailored according to individual patient factors



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

William Tumusiime, Charles Halliday, Crystal (Yu-Chia) Chou, Jodie Dagger, Kath Hall, Jennifer Wilson

REFERENCES

1. Australia Institute of Health and Welfare. Opioid harm in Australia: and comparisons between Australia and Canada. Canberra (AU): AIHW; 2018 [updated 2021 Nov 26; cited 2023 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/opioid-harm-in-australia/summary>
2. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Opioid Analgesic Stewardship in Acute Pain Clinical Care Standards – Acute Care Edition. [Internet]. Sydney (Aus): Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care; 2022 [cited 2023 Aug 6]. Available from: <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-04/opioid-analgesic-stewardship-in-acute-pain-clinical-care-standard.pdf>