

DRUG DIVERSION AND MISUSE IN HOSPICE CARE



DESCRIPTION:

Medication diversion and misuse in hospice care, as in any healthcare setting, must be recognized and addressed as part of a best practice approach to care. John Cagle, PhD, MSW will share evidence-based recommendations that he has developed for preventing medication diversion and misuse in hospice care. He and Kaitlyn Allen, MSN, RN, CHPN will use case studies to look at how hospices can screen patients and caregivers for substance use disorder and the potential obstacles that diversion prevention efforts can create in providing effective pain management.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation features experienced professionals offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to hear the experts talking and presenting. If you login for the live version of the program, you'll also have the opportunity to email or text the experts' questions that they will discuss and answer during the program's Q & A session.

LIVE DATE:	November 10, 2026
TIME:	Noon to 1:30pm ET
ON DEMAND:	Available for 6 months; until May 10, 2027
LENGTH:	90 minutes
CEs:	1.5 hours
CONTENT LEVEL:	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home, or faith community environments

This program will be live on the air date, recorded and made available for on demand viewing. The recorded program will be available approximately a day after the live event.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers.

TEST LINK for live program Audio and Video: <https://zoom.us/test>

Technical Questions? Please go to <https://zoom.us/> and click "support"

PROGRAM FEES/REGISTRATION:

Registration includes continuing education and on-demand viewing for 6 months from live date. Register directly online at: <https://www.hospicefoundation.org>

Registration Options

- Individual: Live and on-demand viewing for one person.
- Organization/company: Unlimited viewing for employees within a single location.

- Organization + community license: Unlimited viewing for employees and community members at up to 3 locations.

ADVANCE PURCHASE

- Individual Viewer — Member: FREE | Non-member: \$29.95
- Organizational Viewing — Member: FREE for up to 25 staff
- Organizational Viewing — Non-member: 1-12 staff – \$79.95 | 13-25 staff – \$135
- Organization + Community Access License: \$390

SAME DAY and ON-DEMAND PURCHASE

- Individual Viewer — Member: FREE | Non-member: \$39.95
 - Organizational Viewing — Member: FREE for up to 25 staff
 - Organizational Viewing — Non-member: 1-12 staff – \$89.95 | 13-25 staff – \$160.00
 - Organization + Community Access License: \$400
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Describe the impact of the national opioid epidemic on hospice and end-of-life care delivery.
 - Differentiate between medication misuse and medication diversion in hospice settings.
 - Identify risk factors and warning signs associated with opioid diversion and misuse among patients, family caregivers, and household members.
 - Evaluate current evidence regarding the prevalence of opioid diversion, missing medications, and medication disposal practices in hospice care.
 - Apply evidence-informed recommendations to prevent medication diversion while maintaining quality end-of-life care.
 - Describe best practices for patient and family education, medication monitoring, and safe medication disposal.
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PROGRAM OUTLINE:

I. Hospice Care During a National Opioid Epidemic (5 minutes)

- Overview of the opioid crisis
- Challenges unique to hospice care
- Balancing symptom management and opioid safety

II. Defining Medication Misuse and Diversion (5 minutes)

- Definitions
- Differences between misuse and diversion
- Clinical implications

III. Evidence and Estimates of Diversion in Hospice (15 minutes)

- National hospice survey findings
- Confirmed and suspected diversion rates
- Common individuals involved in diversion
- Red flags and risk factors

IV. Medication Disposal Practices and Risks (10 minutes)

- Hospice medication disposal findings
- Opioids remaining in homes following death
- FDA-recommended disposal practices
- Current barriers

V. Case Examples and Clinical Scenarios (15 minutes)

- Identification of diversion
- Response strategies
- Clinical decision making

VI. Recommendations for Preventing Diversion and Misuse (20 minutes)

- Screening
- Patient and family education
- Medication monitoring
- Documentation
- Safe disposal
- Interdisciplinary communication

VII. Questions and Discussion (20 minutes)

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1.5 continuing education contact hours. CE hours are available for 6 months, until May 10, 2027.

A complete list of board approvals for this program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org on the program's registration page.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 1.5 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online which includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

EXPERT PANELISTS:

John Cagle, PhD, MSW, is an Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Social Work with a substantive interest in improving care at the end of life. As a translational health services researcher, his efforts have focused on identifying effective models of care and support for dying patients and their families – and implementing those models into routine clinical practice. His research is informed by nearly a decade of clinical work as a hospice social worker. Dr. Cagle completed his PhD from Virginia Commonwealth University where his dissertation thesis explored the needs and experiences of informal caregivers of advanced cancer patients.

After being awarded his doctoral degree in 2008, he trained as an NIA-funded postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Institute on Aging as well as the University of California, San Francisco, Division of Geriatrics. His current research examines disparities in care at the end of life, psychosocial barriers to pain management, and improving palliative care outcomes in long-term care settings. His research has been supported by a number of public and private entities, including the Hospice Foundation of America, the National Palliative Care Research Center, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and the Foundation for Care at the End of Life.

Kaitlyn Allen, MSN, RN, CHPN, is the Senior Director of Patient Services at Hudson Valley Hospice in New York. With over 12 years of nursing experience, 10 years have been spent serving patients and their caregivers in the hospice setting. Kaitlyn started her hospice career as an RN case manager, providing direct care and coordination across HVH's care settings. Over the last 7 years she has dedicated her career to nursing leadership roles that have provided the opportunity to empower, engage, and support hospice staff in the mission to provide holistic, patient-centered, quality care to hospice patients. Kaitlyn holds a Master's Degree of Science in Nursing with a Healthcare Policy Specialty Track from Chamberlain University and is Certified in Hospice and Palliative Care.

REVIEWER:

Lynda Shand, RN PhD, CHPN CNE, *Fellow*, NY Academy of Medicine and Associate Professor, Mercy University

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA):

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, contact HFA at educate@hospicefoundation.org or call 800-854-3402.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES

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