

## **Controlled Substance Tapering Practice Management**

Great Lakes Physicians Organization (GLOSC)

Great Lakes Medical Associates (GLMA)

Beginning in 2018, GLMA weaned all controlled substance use for chronic pain patients over a 15-month period while still retaining these patients to the practice. Initially, 170 unique patients were being prescribed controlled substances for chronic pain. By the end of the program, there were only 23 patients who met this criterion. Furthermore, the total number of chronic pain controlled substance prescriptions was reduced from nearly 800 prescriptions per quarter to less than 50 per quarter, over the same time period. Of note, it was discovered that the majority of the 23 patients who were still being prescribed these medications at the conclusion of the program were being treated for cancer or in hospice, demonstrating even further success. The success of this program relies greatly on the physician and care manager team management approach.

Funds received for this award will be applied in several ways. The outcomes of this program have garnered such success that expanding this to all primary care practices is essential. This would include physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, care managers, and medical assistants attending MiCCSI's pain and addiction course. Fees to attend the course as well as time away from the office to attend would be reimbursed. The amount of funding that would be dedicated to these efforts would be approximately \$10,000.

Impacting the Opioid epidemic is a state and national priority, therefore incentivizing practices to adopt a controlled substance tapering program is necessary in order to spur adoption of such a program. The total cost of this incentive program would be \$10,000 – \$15,000 annually.

Reimbursement monies would also be used to provide self-management courses to enable the growth of care coordinator teams in all practices. This would require approximately \$20,000 in funding.

Lastly, it has long been a goal of Great Lakes OSC to employ a pharmacist to aid in programs such as the one described above for our high-risk populations with respect to use of chronic pain medications. The remaining funding (approximately \$50,000) would be applied towards funding this position with a long-term commitment in mind.