

## Management of Opioid Risks When Prescribing Drugs for Acute and Chronic Orofacial Pain

This educational program is specifically designed for dentists who manage acute or chronic pain in their practices. The pharmacologic principles to be reviewed and their application have been developed over the past four decades from thousands of controlled clinical trials conducted in patients with orofacial pain. This body of evidence supports a pain prevention paradigm that minimizes the onset and intensity of acute postoperative pain with less adverse effects than traditional opiate analgesic combinations and minimizes the risk of misuse, abuse or diversion of analgesic drugs prescribed for dental pain. Topics to be discussed include:

- The mechanism and sites of action of analgesic drugs
- Review of controlled substances prescribing
- How to prevent the onset and intensity of postoperative pain rather than manage pain after the inflammatory process initiates changes in the nervous system that perpetuate pain
- The significant limitations of prescribing controlled substances for chronic pain
- Why opioids are the last choice for the treatment of acute dental pain
- How to treat acute dental pain in the emergency department or urgent care setting without prescribing an opioid
- The contribution of heredity to opioid abuse
- The limited success of intranasal naloxone for the opioid overdose epidemic
- The gateway hypothesis to developing drug abuse
- How the dental community can minimize their contribution to the diversion of opioid drugs that contributes to the national crisis in opioid overdose resulting in 3-4 deaths every hour in the US.

### Presenter

Raymond Dionne DDS, PhD has published greater than 200 articles and 5 textbooks on the pharmacology of drugs used to manage acute pain and perioperative anxiety in dental patients. He currently is a professor of pharmacology on the faculty of a NC medical and dental school and has recently authored relevant publications in the dental literature: ***Changing Paradigms for Acute Dental Pain: Prevention is Better than PRN, Prescribing Opioids Analgesics for Acute Dental Pain: Time to Change Clinical Practices in Response to Evidence and Misperceptions.***