

MONTH/DAY/YEAR

(WSMA logo) (WSHA logo) (HCA logo)



PROVIDER NAME

PROVIDER ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

RE: (PATIENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME, DOB), **FATAL OPIOID OVERDOSE**

Dear PROVIDER (LAST NAME AND DESIGNATED CREDENTIALS),

Your patient, (PATIENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME), died from an apparent opioid-related overdose at (HEALTHCARE FACILITY'S NAME) on (MONTH/DATE/YEAR). Data from the Prescription Monitoring Program and the Emergency Department Information Exchange identified you as the primary care provider for this patient and/or someone who prescribed a controlled substance to this patient during the 6 months prior to the patient's death. We are providing you this information to support you in providing safe and effective care to patients.

Here are some important tips on managing pain and prescribing opioids you may find useful:

- ✓ Follow opioid prescribing guidelines available at: <http://www.agencymeddirectors.wa.gov/>, <http://www.coperems.org> and <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>
- ✓ If needed for acute pain, prescribe the lowest effective dose of immediate-release opioids for the shortest duration of time and discuss the risks and benefits of opioids with your patient. More than a 7 days' supply is rarely needed.
- ✓ Prescribe opioids for chronic pain only if benefits for both pain and function outweigh risks to the patient.
- ✓ Avoid co-prescribing opioids, benzodiazepines, or other sedatives. Combining opioids with sedatives, sleeping pills or alcohol increases the risk of an overdose.
- ✓ Use the Prescription Monitoring Program database to verify if patients are receiving controlled substances from other prescribers. To register for the system, see www.doh.wa.gov/pmp.
- ✓ Consider providing overdose education and naloxone to patients on opioids. See www.stopoverdose.org
- ✓ Participate in UW TelePain (<https://depts.washington.edu/anesth/care/pain/telepain/>) or call the UW Medicine Pain Consult line (1-844-520-PAIN) for help managing complex pain patient.
- ✓ Learn how to recognize opioid use disorder and offer evidence-based treatment. See the Recovery Helpline - <https://www.warecoveryhelpline.org/>

Thank you for the work you do every day to provide high-quality healthcare to people who live in Washington State. If you have any questions about the Prescription Monitoring Program, please contact the Washington State Department of Health at (360-236-XXXX or email).