Educational Objectives
1. Recognize community consequences of opioid abuse, addiction, and diversion. Identify what individual prescribers can do to prevent or reduce these problems.
2. Select patients who are appropriate for extended or chronic opioid pain management. Follow an evidence-based protocol when starting selected patients on addictive medications.
3. Define patient risk factors for potential misuse or abuse of prescribed opioid medications and document these consistently with an effective pre-prescribing screening protocol.
4. Educate patients about ways to optimize safety when taking, storing, and disposing of opioids.
5. Take appropriate steps to monitor the use of opioids by the patient and to minimize the potential for opioid diversion, inappropriate use or abuse, including use of therapeutic agreements and urine drug screening.
7. Integrate investigation of clinical suspicion about opioid abuse into patient encounters. Learn how and why to query the NC Controlled Substance Reporting System and to integrate Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and treatment (SBIRT) into your practice.
8. Become familiar with and use local and regional resources for treatment of opioid addiction.

Credit Statement: This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 3 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Prescribed credit is accepted by the American Medical Association as equivalent to AMA PRA category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award.

Accreditation: This activity has been planned and implemented by the Governor’s Institute on Alcohol and Substance Abuse in accordance with the Essentials and Standards of the American Academy of Family Physicians. The American Academy of Family Physicians is accredited by the NCMS to provide continuing education for physicians.

Disclosure Statement: This program will comply with the ACCME Essentials and Standards regarding industry support of continuing medical education. Disclosure of faculty and commercial relationships will be made known at the activity. Speakers are expected to openly disclose a discussion of any off-label, experimental or investigational use of drugs or devices in their presentations.

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Program Description
Each year, millions of patients are treated for a variety of serious medical conditions with prescription opioids. Recent indicators reveal that the misuse and abuse of prescription painkillers are rising dramatically, with serious medical and societal consequences. Prescribers are faced with the challenge of minimizing the potential for misuse without impeding patients' access to needed medical care. This course will provide specific knowledge and skills associated with safer opioid prescribing practices, and will cover related epidemiology, legal and regulatory issues, as well as clinical strategies to manage difficult patient presentations.

Who Should Attend
This program is designed for physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, substance abuse counselors, and dentists. Seating is limited and early pre-registration is highly recommended.

Faculty
• VEERANDAR GOULI, MD, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University Medical Center; Medical Director, Pain Evaluation and Treatment Services, Duke University Health Center; Durham, NC.
• JAMES W. FINCH, MD, President, NC Society of Addiction Medicine; Medical Director, Changes by Choice; Durham, NC.
• WILLIAM D. BRONSON, Manager of Drug Control Unit, NC Dept of HHSS, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, Raleigh, NC.
• GWEN SOLAN LITTMAN, MD, Course Director, Safer Opioid Prescribing Initiative Training Coordinator, Governors' Institute on Alcohol & Substance Abuse; President, Lumina Wellness Inc., Beaufort, NC.

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QUESTIONS?
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