



# Clinical Decision Support

---

**Clinical Decision Support refers to specific tools, aids, and protocols that are built into work flow to make it easier to do the right thing, i.e., evidence-based safe and appropriate opioid prescribing and pain management.**

**a. Electronic Medical Record – Alerts, Order Entry Questionnaires, Best Practice, Protocols, Menus**

- 1) Medication Safety Alerts – Dose, Age, Quantity, Combinations, Frequent Refill
- 2) Best Practice Alerts – alternative treatment options, tapering protocol, consultation/referral
- 3) Order Entry Questionnaires – criteria to meet, approved specialty, etc.
- 4) CURES
  - a. CURES Use Alerts
  - b. Link to CURES
- 5) Treatment Agreements
- 6) Coding Tools
- 7) Urine Drug Testing
- 8) Default Sig on Prescriptions (small quantity, no refills)
- 9) DR.ADVISE tool for EMR supported email advice from specialists

**b. Protocols: with or without the EMR, protocols support safe prescribing.**

- 1) CURES Check
- 2) Duration of therapy maps/template (3d, 5d, 7d, 30 d)
- 3) Default Rx Sigs
- 4) Alternative Treatment Protocols
- 5) Urine Drug Testing (UDT)
- 6) Treatment Agreement
- 7) Tapering Protocol
- 8) Consultation/Referral Protocol
- 9) Naloxone co-prescribing for high risk / high dose chronic opioid patients

**c. How to Deal with Difficult Patients (Advice, Consultation, Referral)**

- 1) Advice Line Access (phone, email with or without EMR support)
- 2) Consultation/Referral Guidelines/Protocol
- 3) Organizational, Multi-specialty Controlled Substance/Opioid/Pain Management Review Team

**d. After Visit Summary**

- 1) Shared template AVS for Treatment Agreements, Patient Consent, Pain Management (Migraine, Low Back, Fibromyalgia, Chronic Pain, Opioids)
- 2) Use of standard Patient Information Tools, e.g., Choosing Wisely, CDC (see Patient Information/Education Section)

**e. Nursing Staff Roles and Tools**

- 1) Staff education around safe prescribing and use

**f. Clinical Pharmacist/Pharmacy**

- 1) Pharmacy Protocols (CURES check, quantity limits, early refill, frequent fliers, multiple prescribers, combination medications (e.g., opioid + BZP), high daily dose

**g. Utilization Management/Utilization Review**

- 1) Can be conducted in real time or retrospectively using data that can identify prescribing improvement opportunities.