The Evaluation of a Professional Development Program on the Proper Prescribing of Controlled Prescription Drugs
Center for Professional Health1 – Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Evidence:
• Substance-abuse, including controlled prescription drugs (CPD), is the nation’s number one health problem and CPD abuse is the nation’s “fastest-growing drug problem.”2
• Deaths from CPD has reached epidemic proportions. Nearly 15,000 people die every year of overdoses involving CPD.3
• In 2010 alone, physicians wrote enough CPDs to medicate every American adult around-the-clock for a month.3
• Proper prescribing of CPD can reduce the numbers who misuse, abuse or overdose. However, only 19% of surveyed physicians received any medical school training in identifying prescription drug diversion and only 40% on identifying prescription drug abuse and addiction.4

Background: A 3-day Professional Development Program titled, "The Proper Prescribing of Controlled Prescription Drugs." The main focus of the course is prevention and remediation training. Most participants are mandated by their licensing board to attend.

Purpose: Reduce misprescribing and improve patient safety.

Methods: A 2-yr program evaluation using Kirkpatrick’s Model for Evaluating Training Programs.

Results: Course evaluations, pre/post-knowledge assessments, brief attitude assessment on substance abuse, and f/u web-based survey.

Conclusions:
- Participants rate the course as excellent.
- The course improves knowledge and attitudes.
- Many participants implement proper prescribing practices, SBIRT, and more patient referrals as a result of participating in the course.
- The results imply a positive impact on patients but further study is needed.

Future Directions: Measure direct impact on patient outcomes and return on investment (ROI).

References:
1. Center for Professional Health – Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN. http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/cph

Participants’ Quotes:
- "I wish I had this course earlier in my training."
- "All medical students and residents should be taking this course."
- "The course gave me great insight in management of my chronic pain patients."
- "I really feel our office is in great compliance due in great part to the information from the course."