

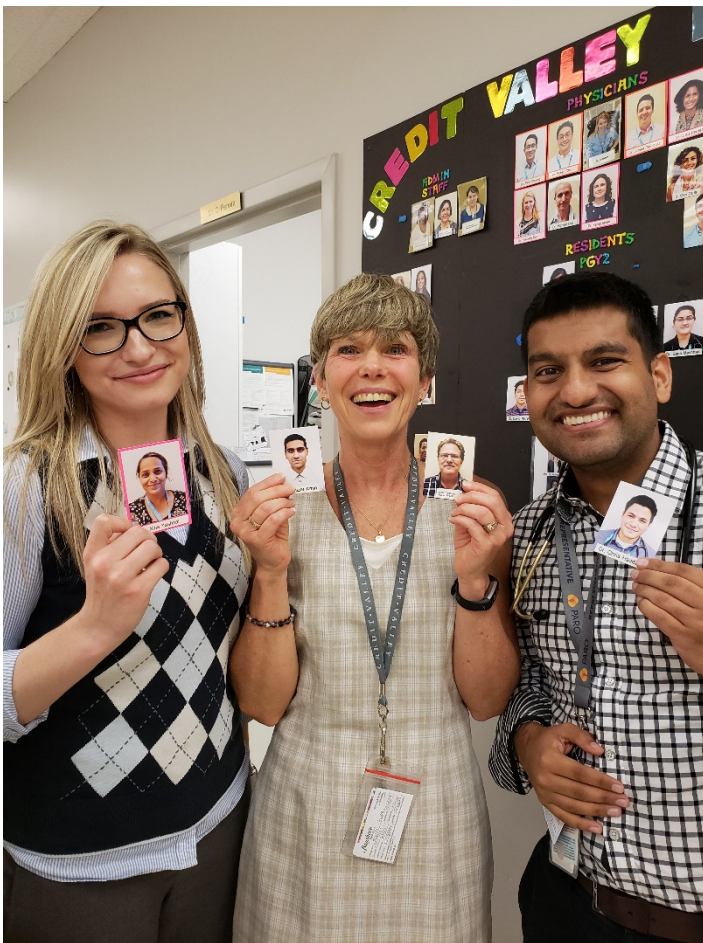


Nomination

Mental health and addictions

Credit Valley FHT

Identifying 'At Risk' Opioid Patients in a FHT



The Credit Valley Family Health Team implemented Choosing Wisely Canada 'Opioid Wisely' recommendation to encourage conversations between prescribers and patients, and reduce harms associated with opioid prescribing. The goal was to identify for the first time and document patients with chronic non-cancer pain >3 months, and then analyze over 9 potential risk mitigation factors (such as history of substance abuse, narcotic contracts) that may help create a balance between opioid harm reduction and adequate pain control.

One of the challenges our team encountered was classifying irregular prescribing of short courses of opioids when needed for occasional pain, which created ambiguity when sorting patients into CNCP >3 months. A solution to this was to discuss the patient's opioid therapy over the phone, explain the purpose of the call and enquire on the frequency of use of the opioid. This allowed for a more accurate representation of the current status of opioid use as oppose to encounter notes from EMR.