HCP

Opioid epidemic remains one of the crucial issues in America due to the increased number of deaths resulting from a drug overdose. The facts reveal an increase of 21 percent deaths from 2015 to 2016. In 64,000 deaths caused by drug overdose, two-thirds are associated with opioids use (Lopez, 2017). Increased dependence of the community on opioids leads to devastating impacts such as nausea, a weakened the immune system and increased threats of HIV. Although the drug provides a temporary cure to the users, they are unaware of the long-term implications. Opioid addiction is an ongoing crisis depicting the need for medications and treatments. The healthcare institutions are already using the medications for curing opioid addiction. However, the reliance on one kind of medications is not adequate for preventing health consequences. The current situation exhibits the need for taking effective steps for minimizing the use of opioids and eliminating the risks of health deterioration.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have a significant role in ensuring the effectiveness and safety of the medications. FDA proposed the use of opioids in serious cases where people are undergoing extreme pains. The absence of strict opioid policy has been the cause of its adverse impacts. Physicians have the authority of deciding if they can prescribe opioids to the patients or not. A popular case of opioid is Dr. Barit's involvement in the illegal distribution of schedule II drugs. He was accused of treating his patients with drugs in 2013. He faced 20 charges with a penalty of $5 million and 390 years of imprisonment (Paavola, 2018).

Appropriate ways of controlling misuse of opioids include implementation of strict policies and laws. The imposition of penalties and imprisonment are common strategies used by the states. The increased risks of opioid-related deaths depict need for policy enhancement.

References

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