



ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASAM is part of Thirteen Health Care Provider Organizations Awarded \$3.6 Million to Continue Education on Safer Prescribing of Opioids *Collaborative for REMS Education (CO*RE) has educated 53,000 physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, aims for tens of thousands more.*

CHEVY CHASE, MD, NOVEMBER 17, 2014 — \$3.6 million grant has been awarded to a group of 13 prominent health care provider organizations that deliver some of the most effective education to clinicians on safer prescribing of extended-release and long-acting (ER/LA) opioid pain medications.

ASAM is a partner of the Collaboration for REMS Education (CO*RE). CO*RE has been awarded its second full year-long grant (after the first and an interim grant) by the REMS Programming Companies (RPC). CO*RE, a collaboration of primarily national associations, will use this funding of \$3,655,634 in 2015 to reach beyond the 53,000 clinicians it has successfully educated since 2013. Together, the CO*RE partner organizations represent more than 682,000 physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants. CO*RE educational programming – in live, online and iBook formats – delivers valuable, accredited education on the safe and effective use of ER/LA opioids in alignment with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) for ER/LA opioids.

“Abuse and misuse of these powerful pain-relieving medications is a public health crisis nationwide,” said Herb Malinoff, MD, chair of the ASAM ER/LA Opioid REMS Courses who helped develop the CO*RE curriculum. “In 2011, nearly 17,000 drug-poisoning deaths in the U.S. involved opioids. CO*RE’s educational activities and materials are designed to assist prescribers in balancing the risks of these medications with the benefits for relief of severe, chronic pain.”

Over 50 percent of U.S. health care professionals who have participated in ER/LA opioid REMS continuing education have attended CO*RE activities. The vast majority indicated that receiving this education improved their understanding and knowledge base and would improve their prescribing practices.

Education includes live presentations, webinars, national and statewide articles in organizations’ publications, websites, and the iBook. All underscore the risks of addiction, abuse, misuse and overdose of opioids; recommend patient assessment, including effective screening tools and when to terminate the use of such medications;

use of patient informed consent and counseling forms; patient and public safety issues; and more. ASAM has worked independently of funders to design and deliver the education most effective to members.

For more information about ASAM's ER/LA Opioid REMS Courses, visit: <http://www.asam.org/education/rems-courses>. For more information about CO*RE, visit: <http://www.core-rems.org>.

About ASAM

The [American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) is a national medical specialty society representing over 3,200 physicians and associated professionals. Its mission is to increase access to and improve the quality of addiction treatment, to educate physicians, and other health care providers and the public, to support research and prevention, to promote the appropriate role of the physician in the care of patients with addictive disorders, and to establish Addiction Medicine as a specialty recognized by professional organizations, governments, physicians, purchasers and consumers of health care services and the general public. ASAM was founded in 1954, and has had a seat in the American Medical Association House of Delegates since 1988. Follow our official Twitter handle: [@ASAMorg](#)

About CO*RE

The Collaborative for REMS Education, or CO*RE, is a four-year-old, 13-partner collaboration dedicated to providing members with effective, high quality education about ER/LA opioids, bridging practice gaps in this challenging clinical area, and improving patient care. CO*RE partners represent more than 682,000 physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

CO*RE Organizations

- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American Osteopathic Association
- American Pain Society
- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- California Academy of Family Physicians
- Healthcare Performance Consulting
- Interstate Postgraduate Medical Association
- Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation
- Medscape
- 21 State Medical Societies in conjunction with Physicians Institute of Excellence in Medicine
- American Academy of Family Physicians

About RPC

Pharmaceutical companies that manufacture ER/LA opioids have come together as a consortium, the REMS Program Companies, and are responsible to the FDA for fulfilling the FDA REMS for ER/LA Opioids. For a list of the companies and medications covered, see: <http://www.er-la-opioidrems.com/lwgUI/rems/products.action>.