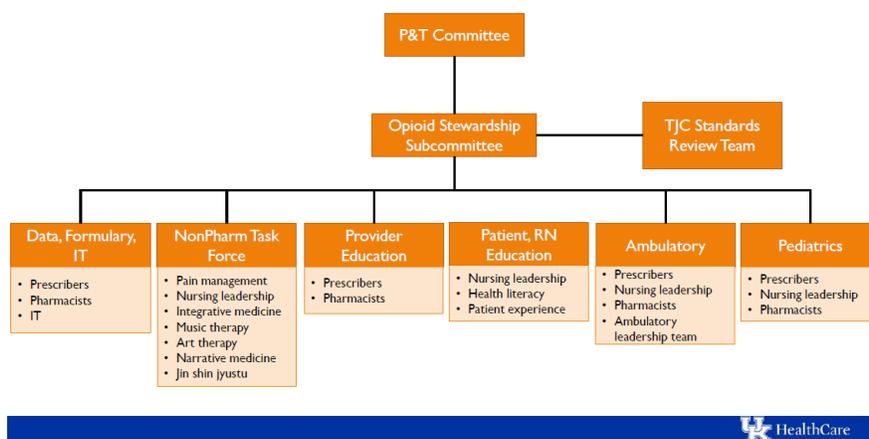


Other Notable Examples

- Kaiser Permanente Southern California** took a “comprehensive” approach to combat the opioid epidemic, creating “prescribing and dispensing policies, monitoring and follow-up processes, and clinical coordination through electronic health record integration.” According to [a 2017 study in the Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice](#), “Kaiser Permanente Southern California's intervention was developed and overseen by a multi-disciplinary team composed of physician administrative leaders, primary care, pain management and addiction medicine physicians, pharmacists, information technology leaders, and education specialists... This structure provides the critical framework needed to develop, communicate, implement, and sustain the initiative.”² Results from implementing the interventions included “a 30% reduction in prescribing opioids at high doses” and “a 98% reduction in the number of prescriptions with quantities greater than 200 pills.”
- At **University of Kentucky HealthCare**, the opioid stewardship committee is modeled after the antimicrobial stewardship committees in many hospitals.³ [According to Phillip Chang, MD](#) (CMO at UK Kentucky HealthCare), the committee is responsible for “monitoring the prescribing patterns and educating physicians, nurses and pharmacists about the rules around prescribing.”

UK HealthCare’s Opioid Stewardship Committee



Measuring Success

Key Success Factors When Establishing an Opioid Stewardship Committee

Clear mission statement and goals

- Well-defined accountability structure
- C-Suite engagement and support
- Multidisciplinary participation on the committee, especially from pharmacy leadership and departments that prescribe opioids or treat opioid addiction
- Formal involvement of IT leadership on the opioid stewardship committee, as well as IT participation and engagement in any applicable opioid stewardship committee subgroups or task forces
- Protected time for leaders to participate on opioid stewardship committee-related tasks

Key Takeaways

- Creating an opioid stewardship committee that is positioned to succeed requires support and engagement from C-level leadership
- Multidisciplinary participation on the opioid stewardship committee is also key
- IT should play a significant role on the opioid stewardship committee – both at the leadership level as well as engagement in committee subgroups and task forces
- The specific structure of the opioid stewardship committee (stakeholders involved, subcommittee tasks, overall oversight, etc.) should reflect the unique goals and scope of the opioid stewardship program as well as the needs of the community

Resources

- [NQF “Playbook” on Opioid Stewardship \(March 2018\)](#)
- [“Strategies for Promoting the Safe Use and Appropriate Prescribing of Prescription Opioids,”](#) Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy, February 2018
- [“Stem the Tide: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic,”](#) American Hospital Association, 2017
- [“Safer and more appropriate opioid prescribing: a large healthcare system's comprehensive approach.”](#) Losby JL, Hyatt JD, Kanter MH, Baldwin G, Matsuoka D. J Eval Clin Pract. 2017;23:1173–1179.