SYNOPSIS:
This four hour seminar will discuss the problem of prescription opiate medication abuse in the United States. The science of pain stimulation and its management in acute and chronic settings will be presented. Additionally, solutions to this public health epidemic, including regulations and policies developed by governmental agencies as well as professional healthcare organizations will be considered. All oral healthcare providers and dental team members need to appreciate the importance of a proactive role in the curtailment of prescription opioid abuse.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- Describe the scope of prescription drug abuse in NV and the US
- Classify the drugs that are most commonly abused
- Recognize the responsibility of dental professionals to prescribe alternatives to opiates for acute pain management of dental etiology when possible
- Judge the need to choose NSAIDs as an alternative to central acting opioids for acute, short term, moderate to severe pain relief
- Describe procedures regarding the CDC Drug Take Back program
- Use the Nevada Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) protocol for writing obtundent drug prescriptions.
- Describe the physiologic pathways related to initiation of pain symptoms and their diminution
- Evaluate the need to maintain thorough and current records of patient prescriptions, OTC, herbal and recreational medications to prevent treatment complications in dental practice
- Build a foundational knowledge regarding the ethical and legal requirements for prescribing appropriate amounts and dosages of opiate medications.
- Critically evaluate relevant pharmacological, dental and governmental scientific literature regarding an evidence-based understanding of the problems related to indiscriminant use of opioid and other abused prescription medications.

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Dr. Herschaft received a DDS from West Virginia University School of Dentistry, a certificate in oral and maxillofacial pathology from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He is Professor Emeritus - MUSC College of Dental Medicine, Professor of Biomedical Sciences - University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Dental Medicine, and Guest Professor - Medical School of Nankai University in Tianjin, China. Dr. Herschaft is one of the quality assurance officers for the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. He is a Diplomate of the American Boards of Oral Medicine and Forensic Odontology and Fellow of the American and International Colleges of Dentists, AAfS and Pierre Fauchard Academy.

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