



**WISCONSIN DENTAL  
PAIN PROTOCOL**



# **Opioids, Teeth, and the Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol (WDPP)**

**Introductory Presentation**

# Learning Objectives



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Review the  
**Wisconsin Dental Pain  
Protocol (WDPP)** and  
Proof of Concept



Introduce the  
**WDPP Implementation  
and On-Shift Clinical  
Tools**

# WDPP Advisory Group



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- **Russ Dunkel**, DDS, FPFA, FICD, FACD / Wisconsin State Dental Director, WI DHS
- **Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne**, MS, MPH / Division of Public Health, WI DHS
- **Robbyn Keuster**, BSDH, RDH / Oral Health Unit Supervisor, WI DHS
- **Nadine Allen**, MBA, CPHQ / Chief Quality Officer, Wisconsin Hospital Association
- **David F. Gundersen**, DDS, MPH / WDPP Developer
- **Debi DeNure**, RDH, BAS / WDPP Developer



# The Problem





# The Problem





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**21,000**





## WISCONSIN DENTAL PAIN PROTOCOL





- In 2014–2015, a group of health care, ED/UCC, dental, and public health leaders convened to address NTDP presentations with the goals of:
  - **Establishing effective intake, treatment, and discharge protocols**
  - **Minimize use of opioids**
  - **Direct patients to definitive treatment for emergent oral health issues and prevent recidivism**
- Developed the NTDP ED/UCC Protocol, implemented February of 2015





## ED Provider



Assesses  
Urgency

Controls pain  
thru local  
Anesthetic  
injection or  
non-opioid  
medicine

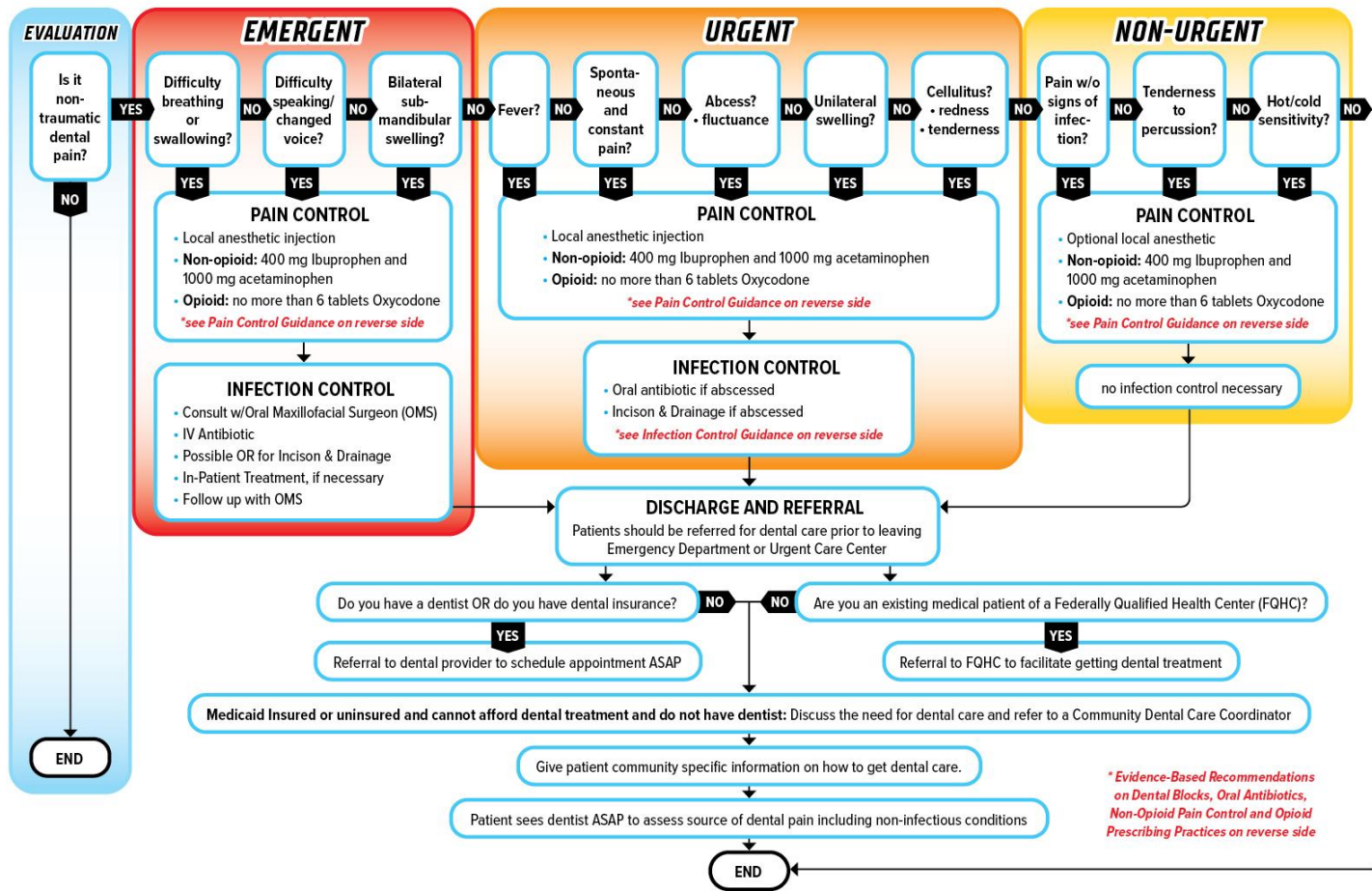
Connects  
Patients to  
Community  
Dental Care  
Coordinator



## WISCONSIN DENTAL PAIN PROTOCOL

## CLINICAL ALGORITHM

This algorithm was developed by Public Health Madison Dane County and is a public domain resource.





It is expected that all recommendations are subject to provider modification based on patient need and protocols for pain and infection control. The following dental pain and infection control recommendations are based on clinical best practices. Providers should prescribe based on their assessment of patient health history and clinical circumstance.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

It is strongly recommended that providers receive training on injection technique prior to utilizing local anesthetic injections. In addition, the link below offers a webinar titled, *Management of Dental Pain in the Emergency Room*. The following time stamps offer targeted information and guidance for your immediate review and use.

**Link:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=spwoD4x79Tw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spwoD4x79Tw)

Time Stamps:

- I. Opioid Prescribing and Its Impact (2:52)
- II. Local Anesthetic and Use of Vasoconstrictors (7:32)
- III. Anesthetics for Dental Pain (14:52)
- IV. Anesthesia Injection Techniques (25:35)
- V. Delivering Local Anesthetic Demonstration (29:05)
- VI. Types of Analgesia (46:08)
- VII. Dental Infection and Antibiotic Selection (1:02:28)

### PAIN CONTROL GUIDANCE

As identified in the Clinical Algorithm, providers should utilize the following non-opioid and opioid pain control regimens:

1. 400 mg of Ibuprofen and 1000 mg of Acetaminophen every 4–6 hours PRN for pain. Provider may increase dosages at their discretion.
2. If in the provider's judgement the patient requires opiate pain control, patient should be given no more than 6 tablets of Oxycodone and informed there will be no refills.

### LOCAL ANESTHETIC GUIDANCE

Provider should offer immediate pain control through local anesthetic injection. Injection dose of 1.8 cc is standard. Maximum amounts dictated by type of anesthetic, patient weight and health history.

- **General Use:** 2% Lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine can be used for all types of injections.
- **Inferior Alveolar Nerve Block:** 2% Lidocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine coupled with .5% Bupivacaine with 1:200,000 epinephrine.
- **Infiltration at Source of Pain:** 4% Septocaine with 1:100,000 epinephrine coupled with .5% Bupivacaine with 1:200,000 epinephrine
- **Infected Areas (Exudate or Severe Swelling Present):**  
Add 2% Mepivacaine with 1:200,000 Neo-Cobefrin

### INFECTION CONTROL GUIDANCE

Per the webinar, the following antibiotic regimens are recommended:

**Mild Infections** (no visible swelling, exudate or pain on palpation present)

- Amoxicillin 500 mg – 1 gram loading dose, then BID
- Keflex 500 mg – 1 gram loading dose, then QID
- Azithromax (Z-Pak) 250 mg – 2 tabs first day, then 1 tab till gone (5 days)

**Moderate Infections**

- Amoxicillin 500 mg – 1 gram loading dose, then BID plus Metronidazole 500 mg BID
- Clindamycin 300 mg, QID with 450 mg loading dose
- Augmentin 500 mg, 1 gram loading dose then TID

The 5–7 days is the average with 10 days max.



Essential to get patient into **definitive care** to address current problem but also prevent recidivism for same condition.

“You need to see a dentist soon to get the treatment you need. If not, the pain and infection will keep coming back.”

# WDPP | The Big Picture



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## ED Provider



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# Clinical Hands-On Training



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**Syringe and  
Manikin Station**



**Oral Landmark  
Station**



**Skull Anatomy  
Station**



## In Dane County

- Repeat dental pain visits have shown a decline since 2016 in all participating hospital EDs and urgent care centers (UCCs).
- The number of ED visits for dental pain has been cut by more than half since 2014, dropping from 2,405 to 1,123 visits in 2018.
- There is also a similar drop in Urgent Care visits.
- The combination of this initiative, continued collaboration, and an increase in local dental resources may have contributed to this positive outcome.

# Total Providers Trained



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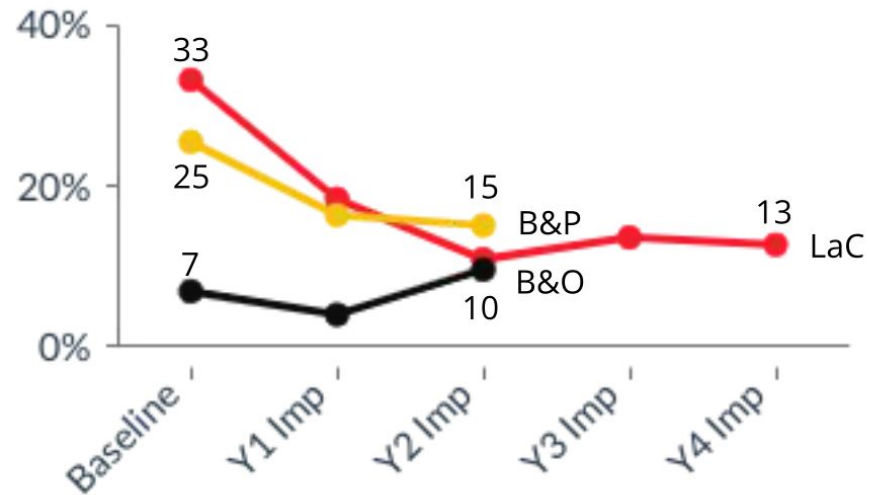
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## Opioid Prescribing after Implementation

The % of **visits prescribed an opioid** for NTDP **trends lower** with longer implementation.






## Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol (WDPP)

### Implementation Checklist

- ☐ **Clinical algorithm** jointly agreed upon by participating health care organizations (HCOs)
- ☐ **Clinical training** provided to emergency care providers that includes hands-on training on local anesthetics and dental blocks and review of the WDPP clinical algorithm
- ☐ **Dental providers** willing to provide dental care to those referred from emergency settings
- ☐ **Care coordination** identified by agency/individual to provide between patients, reporting to emergency settings for non-traumatic dental pain, and dental providers
- ☐ **Referral mechanism** developed and agreed upon by participating dental providers



# [www.widentalpain.org](http://www.widentalpain.org)

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IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

ON-SHIFT CLINICAL TOOLS

**IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS**

1. Assess the Burden of Dental Pain in Your Community
2. Find Leaders and Partners to Create a Plan
3. Engage Dental Providers and Establish the Referral Process
4. Train Clinical Staff
5. Demonstrate Impact
6. Launch and Maintain the WDPP Program

The **Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol (WDPP)** is a systemic approach implemented by Emergency Departments (ED), Urgent Care Centers (UCC), dentists and community partners to reduce opioid use for patients presenting with non-traumatic dental pain.

The WDPP provides the evidence-based diagnosis, treatment and care management of oral pain and infection necessary to optimize ED and UCC staff time and resources.

The WDPP also establishes referral systems within communities so patients can receive definitive dental care. Securing this care addresses the causes of their pain and reduces the likelihood of recidivism.

This website provides resources and guidance for the systemic implementation of the WDPP in addition to on-shift clinical tools.

**ON-SHIFT CLINICAL TOOLS**

- Clinical Care Videos
- Dental Pain Clinical Algorithm
- Opioid and Non-Opioid Pain Control
- Antibiotic Guidance
- Local Anesthetic Administration

Get started