

# Peer-Reviewed Study Supports NarxCare as Effective Patient Screening Solution for Opioid Risk

NarxCare® is a clinical decision support tool and analytics solution that helps prescribers and dispensers evaluate controlled substance data from prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). NarxCare automatically analyzes PDMP data and delivers visualizations and scores of usage patterns based on PDMP data to further enable informed prescribing and dispensing practices.

In a recent independent, peer-reviewed study conducted through the National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network (CTN) and funded by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) HEAL Initiative, **NarxCare was concluded to be an effective "initial universal prescription opioid-risk screener."** The study evaluated the validity of the Narx Scores as a clinical measure of potential opioid misuse via researchers' assessment of NarxCare risk thresholds relative to the "gold standard" World Health Organization Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (WHO ASSIST).

## Overview

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 1,523**

Methods: Researchers assessed participants who were picking up their prescribed opioids from 19 Kroger community pharmacies located in urban and rural Ohio and Indiana.

The study used Narx Scores to divide participants into three groups representing their risk level – low-, moderate- and high-risk for opioid use disorder. The thresholds proved clinically useful as a universal screen to advise providers on next steps with the patient, such as further review of the data or additional screening of the patient.





# Conclusion

The study found NarxCare provides prescribers and dispensers with **clinical decision support to assess a patient’s vulnerability to opioid use disorder and misuse.**

**Clinician users should use NarxCare and the PDMP to support their clinical decisions, not displace them.** Pharmacists and physicians can use the thresholds as calls-to-action to further review details in the patient’s prescription history in conjunction with other relevant patient health information as they attend to the patients.

“**Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) are critical for pharmacists and clinicians to identify risk prescription medication use, but before our study, the association between the Narx Scores and other indicators of opioid use or risk had not been externally evaluated. Our research shows that Bamboo Health’s NarxCare metric is a useful screening tool for prescribers to determine whether a patient is at risk for opioid misuse.**”

## -Dr. Gerald Cochran

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine  
Director of Research for the Program on Addiction  
Research, Clinical Care, Knowledge, and Advocacy  
Division of Epidemiology  
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NarxCare is an application that provides a set of tools to support clinicians’ analysis of controlled substance data from government managed and regulated Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). NarxCare is intended to aid, not replace, medical decision making. None of the information presented in the NarxCare application should be used as sole justification for providing or not providing medications.

To learn more about this solution, visit our [NarxCare](#) page.

Source:

Cochran, G., Brown, J., Yu, Z. et al. (2021, September 24). Validation and threshold identification of a prescription drug monitoring program clinical opioid risk metric with the who alcohol, smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test. Drug and Alcohol Dependence. Retrieved July 27, 2022, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0376871621005627>

