

# Safe use of opioids national collaborative

Whanganui DHB



# Aim

- To reduce uncontrolled pain in patients in the combined surgical ward by 25% by June 2016.
- To improve patient experience of pain management by 25% by June 2016.

# Scope

- Audit area elective patients on surgical ward (general surgical and orthopaedic).
- All patients on an opioid with uncontrolled pain according to pain score.

# List of interventions tested

- Have just finished gathering and analysing data and establishing areas interventions could be made.
- Initiated self reporting of pain score over 24 hour period.

# What the data shows

- Over a 6 weeks period, collected data on 106 patients, 37 patients remained in hospital for more than one night and completed a 24 hours pain score.
- 12 of the 37 patients (32%) showed uncontrolled pain according to definition
- The highest rate of uncontrolled pain was seen in TKJR – 6 out of 14 (43%).

# What the data shows

- Discrepancies were identified between nursing recorded pain scores, patient recorded pain scores and pain team information.
- Questions were also raised regarding individual interpretation of prescribing within the ERAS pathway and patients understanding of PCA use.

# Key lessons/achievements

- We managed to identify harm.
- Things are not what they seem, information collected from patients can often vary depending on who they are talking to.

# Struggles

- Data collection.
- Data doesn't provide clear cut areas for improvement.
- Small patient number – 12 patients identified over a six-week period.

# Successes

- Managed to collect some data.
- We are talking about interventions that could potentially reduce uncontrolled pain and have a way forward.