

Hackley Community Care Center Helps Patients Manage Pain

Hackley Community Care Center (HCCC) is committed to the whole person. That means attending to medical, dental, social, economic, and psychological needs. With that in mind, the Community Health Center located in Muskegon Heights, Michigan, launched a pain management program in 2005.

“We recognized that many patients suffer from chronic pain and we wanted to appropriately manage their pain; not under treatment, not over treatment, or non-treatment,” said Linda Juarez, HCCC Chief Executive Director.

Pain management is a multidisciplinary approach to treating chronic pain and may include medication, interventional procedures like physical therapy, and psychological services. Untreated, chronic pain can lead to a myriad of physical and emotional problems: tense muscles, limited mobility, lack of energy, depression, anxiety, anger, social avoidance, and loss of self esteem.

According to the American Medical Association, pain is one of

the most common reasons patients seek medical attention. The American Pain Society estimates that 75 million people are partially or totally disabled by pain and 45% of all Americans seek care for persistent pain at some point in their lives. What’s more, there is only one pain specialist for every 21,000 patients.

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HCCC developed a comprehensive pain management program under the direction of Chief Medical Officer Wayne Kohn, DO, and Karel Schram, PA-C, who are both credentialed by the American Academy of Pain Management.

Some of the successes so far include the primary care provider being able to secure an office consultation regarding pain issues, and freeing up time for non-pain clinical issues. In



addition, fewer patients are seeking the emergency room for pain, more patients with substance abuse issues are addressed and treated, and the pain treatment is more organized. Most importantly, patients report satisfaction, lower pain scores, and increased functionality.

“Pain management has always been a complex and confusing area of medical practice with varying presentations and treatment. This program has provided some consistency for patients and providers who are working together to achieve better health and greater functionality,” said Dr. Kohn.

HCCC’s mission is to share its respect, compassion, quality, and time with residents of its community and to promote their total health. For more information about HCCC, visit www.hccc-health.org. 