



Waterford Institute of Technology
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA FHORT LAIRGE



Questionnaire

The survey is completed anonymously, and takes approximately **10 minutes** to complete

(Paper Format)

(Where applicable) Can you please return this questionnaire along with your consent form in the freepost envelope provided

Thank you for agreeing to complete this Questionnaire.

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme FP7/2007-2013 under grant agreement no 611736.

Can you please provide us with some information about yourself;

Demographics section

Are you? Male Female

How old are you? (insert number here)

Which of the following best describes your profession? Please circle

1. General practitioner
2. Independent/supplementary prescriber
3. Specialist in Family medicine
4. Specialist in Pain management
5. Other ___Please Specify _____

How many patients do you consult with in an average week? (insert number here)

How many years have you been a qualified practitioner? (insert number here)

Which country do you work in?

England Wales Scotland Northern Ireland

Which best describes the location of the practice you work in?

Urban Rural Mix of both

Do you have any specialist training in substance misuse?

Yes No _____ if yes please specify _____

The following questions examine your experiences of prescribed codeine; can you please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements;

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I routinely review patients who are prescribed medicines containing codeine					
I believe that patients resent me asking about their use of medicines containing codeine					
I feel awkward about asking patients about their codeine use because they will think I am accusing them of having a problem					
Patients are aware of adverse health consequences associated with high doses of combination codeine preparations					
It is unlikely that prescribed medicines containing codeine are used as recreational drugs					
Patients' requests for prescribed medicines containing codeine is increasing					
I would avoid prescribing medicines containing codeine with other drug groups that also produce a depressant effect on the central nervous system					
I would generally prescribe medicines containing codeine following unsuccessful treatment with non-opioid analgesics					
I would generally prescribe codeine linctus following unsuccessful treatment of cough with other non-codeine containing cough suppressants					
Doses of less than 30mg of codeine phosphate(compounded or uncompounded) are not very effective for treating mild to moderate pain					

The following questions are specific to Over the Counter Codeine; can you please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements;

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I routinely ask patients about their use of over the counter medicines					
I document the use of over the counter medicine in a patient's medical notes					
I am concerned about the availability of over the counter medicines containing codeine in pharmacies					
The availability of medicines containing codeine on the internet is a growing concern for the medical profession					
The potential to buy medicines containing codeine from multiple sources adds significantly to the potential for misuse					
Patients are given sufficient information on use of over the counter medicines containing codeine					
Medicines containing codeine should be regulated to a prescription only medicine (POM)					
Over the counter medicines containing codeine give patients better choice for pain relief					
Over the counter mixtures containing codeine gives patients better choice for treating cough					
Over the counter medicines containing codeine are more effective than non-opioid analgesics such as paracetamol and ibuprofen in treating mild to moderate pain					
The potential for misuse of over the counter medicines containing codeine is minimal					
Over the counter medicines containing codeine have greater potential for inappropriate use compared to prescribed medicines containing codeine					
Codeine is easily extracted from compounded formulations (e.g. Co-codamol) increasing its abuse potential					
It is likely that over the counter codeine medicines could be used as recreational drugs					
Codeine misuse is as serious a problem to society as misuse of stronger opioids					
Patients do not fully understand the risk of dependence in taking over the counter medicines containing codeine					
Patients believe that over the counter medicines containing codeine are safe					

The following statements examine your opinion surrounding 'patients' use of codeine medications outside of normal medical practice; can you please indicate your agreement with the following statements;

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Patients who knowingly take medicines containing codeine for non-medical reasons may do so to enhance a positive experience or emotion					
Patients who knowingly take medicines containing codeine outside of normal medical practice may do so to reduce illicit opiate withdrawals					
Patients who knowingly take medicines containing codeine outside of normal medical practice may do so to reduce withdrawal headaches associated with consecutive longer term codeine use					
Patients who knowingly take medicines containing codeine outside of normal medical practice may choose to ignore the risk associated with their use					
Patients who misuse other opiates are more likely to request medicines containing codeine than other patients					
Patients who are prescribed other drugs that have a depressant effect on the central nervous system are more likely to request medicines containing codeine than other patients					
Patients with a history of problematic alcohol use are more likely to request medicines containing codeine than other patients					

The following statements examine codeine dependence; can you please indicate your agreement with the following statements;

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Patients who take their codeine medication as prescribed are not at risk of developing a codeine dependence					
Patients do not fully understand the risk of dependence when taking prescribed medicines containing codeine					
I find it difficult to identify problematic use of medicines containing codeine (including OTCs) without the patient first telling me					
I am confident that I can identify codeine dependence in my patients					
Females are at higher risk of developing a codeine dependence than their male counterparts					
Codeine dependence can be managed effectively in general practice					

The following statements examine screening, support services and training in managing codeine dependence; can you please indicate you level of agreement with the following;

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I have suitable screening methods that I use to identify inappropriate use of medicines containing codeine					
Support services are readily available in my area to help those with a codeine dependence problem					
I am fully aware of best practice in managing codeine misuse and dependence					
I would like more instruction on prescribing potentially addictive medications					

In an average month approximately how many patients have you suspected of having a codeine dependence problem? (insert number)

Can you describe the type of patient behaviours that trigger your suspicion of codeine misuse?

Can you describe types of treatments that you use for patients with codeine dependence?

In the past month approximately how many patients with a codeine dependence have you referred on to a specialist addiction service? (insert number)

What were the main reasons for referring patients onto specialist treatment?

We would like to know if you are aware of any new approaches, good practices or innovations in relation to the prevention, identification (e.g. screening), monitoring and/or management of the misuse of over the counter medications in general or codeine in particular. Please give the name/s and contact details of people from whom we could obtain further information;

Are there any other comments you wish to add in relation to codeine misuse and dependence not covered in this questionnaire?