

"How Does Collaboration Improve Patient Care?"

SCOPE of Pain Colleague to Colleague Podcast #22

Welcome back to the *SCOPE of Pain* micro case series. This is Dr. Daniel Alford, Professor of Medicine and Course Director for the Boston University School of Medicine's *SCOPE of Pain* Program.

In this episode, I'll be speaking with Dr. Daniel Alford, a primary care physician and an addiction medicine specialist at Boston Medical Center, and on faculty at Boston University School of Medicine. And with Dr. Patrick Kelly, a pharmacist on faculty at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, about how prescribers and community pharmacists can work together to improve care of patients on opioid therapy for pain.

So I understand that pharmacists and prescribers should collaborate. But how does this collaboration help the patient? How does this help the patient get better care?

So having good communication between prescriber and the pharmacist can help facilitate better clinical care. We have to think about how the pharmacist and the prescriber, they have the same clinical aim, understanding what each party is doing in the common care of the patient. The pharmacist understanding what the prescriber is looking at. The prescriber understanding what the pharmacist is looking at. We're seeing the patient at two different points in time. And we're involved in two different processes in the same common care of the patient. Our goals are aligned. It's just that we're doing different parts of the process. So key communication between the two individuals will help facilitate the process, prevent delays in care and also help screen for clinically inappropriate combinations, drugs, doses, uses of medications.

Thanks for listening. You're not alone in facing these challenging issues. This topic is addressed in detail in the *SCOPE of Pain* program, available in online and podcast formats, where you can earn CME, CE, and CPE credits. Visit mycme.com/pages/opioid-cme.



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