Improving Patient Safety with PDMP Use

Use this check list to assess your patient's safety:

1. Are opioids prescribed for this patient? If yes...
   - Ask the patient about alcohol use.
   - Patients who consume alcohol with prescribed opioids are at higher risk of accidental overdose.
   - If alcohol is consumed with opioids or exceeds recommended limits, add “hazardous alcohol use” to the problem list.

2. Does the daily amount of opioid exceed 90MMEQ? If yes...
   - Inform the patient that greater than 90MMEQ daily is associated with increased risk of accidental overdose.
   - Add “risk of opioid toxicity” to the problem list.
   - Ask the patient about their schedule and dose.
   - Consider prescribing naloxone.
   - Discuss the possibility of decreasing to a safer dose.
   - Coordinate care of the patient if multiple prescribers are involved.

3. Is the patient prescribed both a benzodiazepine and an opioid? If yes...
   - Inform the patient the use of benzodiazepines and opioids together is associated with higher risk of accidental overdose.
   - Add polypharmacy to the problem list.
   - Ask the patient about their schedule and dose for these medications.
   - Prescribe Naloxone.
   - Discuss the possibility of decreasing or discontinuing the use of one or both medications.
   - Coordinate care of the patient if multiple prescribers are involved.