

## Looking for Clues

### Overdose Fatality Review through a Brain Injury Informed Lens

#### Common Brain Injury Related Conditions

#### Common Medications Prescribed After Brain Injury

#### Look for the following at the Scene of Death

#### Seizure Control

- ⇒ Dilantin (phenytoin)
- ⇒ Depakote (valporic acid)
- ⇒ Tegretol (carbamazepine)
- ⇒ Lyroca (pregabalin)
- ⇒ Neurontin (gabapentin)

#### Depression & Anxiety

- ⇒ Zoloft (sertraline)
- ⇒ Lexapro (escitalopram)
- ⇒ Effexor (venlafaxine)

#### Aggression

- ⇒ Inderal (propranolol)
- ⇒ BuSpar (buspirone)
- ⇒ Tegretol & Depakote

#### Apathy

- ⇒ Ritalin & Adderall

#### Pain

- ⇒ Acetaminophen
- ⇒ Ibuprofen
- ⇒ Opioids

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#### Medical Services

- ⇒ Contact with EMS for injuries related to a fall, assault or motor vehicle accident
- ⇒ Contact with EMS for a prior overdose or overdoses

#### Health Care Records

- ⇒ Any hospitalizations, especially at a trauma center, pay attention to admissions for: MVA, assault, epilepsy, stroke, cardiac arrest, brain tumor, concussion, carbon monoxide poisoning

#### Law Enforcement Records

- ⇒ Contact 12 months prior to death
- ⇒ History of DUI/DWI
- ⇒ Incarceration
- ⇒ Juvenile Services

#### Behavioral Health Records

- ⇒ Depression
- ⇒ Anxiety
- ⇒ Social isolation
- ⇒ Substance Use Related Disorders
- ⇒ Suicide attempt (s)
- ⇒ Inpatient and/or outpatient treatment
- ⇒ History of treatment “failure”, leaving programs prior to completion/asked to leave

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## Overdose Fatality Review through a Brain Injury Informed Lens

### Family History

- Correlation between early TBI & Adverse Childhood Experiences
- ⇒ Physical Abuse
- ⇒ Psychological Abuse
- ⇒ Household member incarceration
- ⇒ Household member drug

### Intimate Partner Violence

- Cause of TBI and ABI
- ⇒ Multiple “mild’ TBIs
- ⇒ Strangulation

- ⇒ A positive history of brain injury is highly correlated with substance abuse related disorders
- ⇒ A history of a brain injury maybe a missing piece of the puzzle when ODFRT’s attempt to assemble the time line of events that led to an individual’s fatal overdose
- ⇒ For behavioral health professionals working with individuals with opioid use related disorders the following is recommended to assist individuals engage with services and stay in services:
  - Screen for a history of traumatic brain injury via the Ohio State University TBI Identification screening tool
  - Employ simple strategies to accommodate common cognitive, behavioral and physical challenges common after brain injury

Screening and Accommodation Resources and Tips can be found at:

The Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation on-line resources and tools <https://tbi.osu.edu/modules>

#### Sources:

- ◆ *Maryland Local ODFRT Case Report Guide*
- ◆ *The Traumatized Brain: A Family guide to Understanding Mood, Memory & Behavior After Brain injury* by Vani Rao MD and Sandeep Vaishnavi 2015, Johns Hopkins University Press

“This project was supported, in part by grant number 90TBSG0027-01-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.”