

1. **Assess the patient's current opioid use and pain level.** Determine the patient's current opioid dose and pain level. This information is crucial for determining the appropriate tapering strategy.

2. **Consider the patient's medical history and comorbidities.** Review the patient's medical history, including any history of substance use disorder, mental health conditions, and other medical conditions that may affect the tapering process.

3. **Establish a clear goal for the taper.** Determine the patient's goals for the taper, such as achieving pain control, reducing opioid dependence, or preparing for surgery.

4. **Develop a tapering schedule.** Create a tapering schedule that is individualized to the patient's needs. This may involve a gradual reduction in the opioid dose over a period of several weeks or months.

5. **Monitor the patient's response to the taper.** Regularly assess the patient's pain level, opioid use, and overall health during the tapering process. Adjust the tapering schedule as needed based on the patient's response.

6. **Provide support and resources.** Offer the patient emotional support and resources, such as counseling or support groups, to help them cope with the challenges of tapering.

7. **Communicate with the patient's other healthcare providers.** Coordinate with the patient's other healthcare providers, such as their primary care physician or specialist, to ensure a safe and effective tapering process.

Best Practices in Selecting the Speed of an Opioid Taper

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Best Practices for Clinicians While Managing an Opioid Taper

FOOTNOTE:

1. The following information is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute an offer or recommendation of any investment or financial product. It is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions. The information is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions.

SOURCE:

2. The information is derived from the following sources: *NAM Perspective* fault/