BACKGROUND
• Of the 51.4 million people yearly who undergo an inpatient surgical procedure in the United States every year, most are discharged on an opioid prescription.
• Many patients do not have a good understanding of their medications at the time of discharge from the hospital, which results in prescription misuse and abuse of opioids.
• Inappropriate storage and disposal of opioids may result in use by persons for whom the medication was not prescribed.
• Patients may store opioids and self-medicate for non-medical purposes.
• Complications from misuse of opioids have resulted in many unintentional patient deaths and addiction.
• In 2013, reports of 22,767 deaths relating to pharmaceutical overdose, 16,235 (71.3%) involved opioid analgesics.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE
To determine if opioid instruction improves nurses’ knowledge and consequence received from the nurse at time of discharge about the safe use of opioids.
To determine if the education of nurses not only increased nurse’s knowledge of opioids but was measurable in terms of patient’s instruction as reported by patients.

METHOD
• Pre/post quasi experimental design.
• Participants included 53 surgical nurses and 193 patients who had undergone an inpatient surgical procedure.
• Pre test of RN opioid knowledge. Post test RN knowledge of opioids following opioid education.
• Pre/Post test analysis of nonequivalent patients’ knowledge following RN education.

RESULTS
• Education intervention improved nurse’s knowledge of safe opioid use for patients who are discharged from the hospital following an inpatient surgical procedure with a prescription for an opioid following a surgical procedure.
• The researchers will also analyze nonequivalent groups of patients regarding the specific instruction they received from the nurse at time of discharge about the safe use of opioids to determine if the education of nurses not only increased nurse’s knowledge of opioids but was measurable in terms of patient’s instruction as reported by patients.

REFERENCES