

The Colorado Alternative to Opioids Project

Kiowa County Hospital District has elected to participate in the Colorado ALTO (Alternatives to Opioids) Project, a program that aims to reduce the administration of opioids in Colorado emergency departments (EDs). Kiowa County Hospital District's goal is to help patients improve pain management, return them to a maximum level of function and independence and ultimately, restore their quality of life. Our hospital and clinicians are committed to understand and individually treat patients' physical and emotional symptoms of pain.

Kiowa County Hospital District is not changing to be "opioid free." We still recognize that there are patients and conditions that are appropriate to treat with opioids and do offer them if alternative therapies fail. Our emergency department providers and staff will continue to accommodate all patients' needs."

Colorado is at the center of the U.S. opioid epidemic with the 12th highest rate of misuse and abuse of prescription opioids across all 50 states. Colorado hospitals, particularly their emergency departments, are in a strong position to integrate new, more effective pain management treatments that are tailored to each patient's unique pain experience.

The Colorado ALTO (Alternatives to Opioids) Project is led by Colorado Hospital Association in partnership with the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse, the Colorado Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Telligen (CMS Quality Improvement Organization) and the Colorado Emergency Nurses Association.

For questions, contact Ellen Lane, RN, CNO, 719-438-5401.