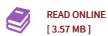




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By -

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2013. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Opioid treatment for chronic pain has been popularized over the past few decades, and opioid usage has increased several-fold. Opioid treatment of chronic pain increased for several reasons: a sense that chronic pain had previously been undertreated; strong underwriting of medical education by drug companies anxious to sell new designer opioids; lifting of the stigma associated opioids, particularly as pain advocacy reestablished opioids as necessary and appropriate treatment for acute and cancer pain. What has emerged is that there are several limitations to chronic opioid treatment. What has become clear in this unfortunate history is that non-specialists were persuaded to prescribe opioids before they could possibly understand the complexity of the treatment. So great were the pressures to prescribe, from drug companies, advocates, and many well-meaning people who saw opioids as the panacea for suffering, opioids were prescribed indiscriminately. It became almost impossible to deny opioids without seeming inhumane. What we learned though, is that while carefully selected and managed opioid therapy can benefit certain patients, casual use fails in several respects. What is needed then is a vast educational effort to help clinicians...



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