



Dear ISPN Colleagues,

We are pleased to share this informative column on **the opioid crisis**.

Written by two of our ISPN members, Julie Denton and Sandra Wood, **part one of the three-part series describes the historical background of opiates** and practical suggestions for assessing patients for addiction. The second column will be published in early spring and focus on **the effects of addiction** on the patient, family, and community. The final column, which will be published in late spring, will concentrate on **what needs to be done to address the crisis**, including what the APN can do.

These columns are coming to you in addition to our *Connections Newsletter* published three times per year. We hope you find this series focused on the opioid crisis educational and helpful!

Best regards,

The Editorial Board of *Connections*

Angela McNelis, Catherine Kane, Peggy Dulaney, Julie Sharrock

Examination of the Opioid Crisis, Part I

International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
2424 American Lane • Madison, WI 53704 USA
Phone: 608-443-2463 • Email: info@ispn-psych.org
Web: <http://www.ispn-psych.org>

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