Some of these people need 10 pills just to get through the morning. Who can afford that? So then they switch to heroin, and sadly heroin is dirt cheap and readily available.

—Wendy Schmolk, emergency room nurse, Cape Regional Medical Center

Opioid at crisis level

Cape Regional ER nurse says she sees overdose victim every shift

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

“Some of these folks are angry; they came in just to get high. They wanted to sell it or trade it. They made their own mixture. They wanted to make money,” said Cape May ER nurse Wendy Schmolk, who said she saw a 56-year-old man in the ER who had taken 70 Percocet pills

We took away their high,” Schmolk said, adding that a dose died, you were just resuscitated,” and are awake but unsure of what conscious on arrival, others many lost,” Schmolk said.

Whether it is from alcohol, polysubstance use, that may be, got addicted to pain medicine, Schmolk said.

Heroin does not have to be shot up and sadly heroin is dirt cheap and readily available.”

They are not addicted, that will make the high last a little longer, Schmolk said.

Schmolk has been an ER nurse for 27 years. She said the opioid epidemic is now at crit

We receive some folks that we can’t resuscitate and without the effects of the opi

We’ve seen so many lives lost,” Schmolk said.

It’s all a loss of life. You died, you were just resuscitated,” Schmolk said, adding that a dose of Norcan can send a patient into immediate withdrawal.

“Some of these folks are angry; they took away their high,” Schmolk said.

They may also be in pain without the effects of the opio

Age-wise, many overdose patients are in their early 20s. The ER also sees overdoses from people in their 40s and 50s, Schmolk said.

It has been a crisis because they make a choice to go on street drugs, that have had injuries over the years, back surgeries, whatever it may be, it got addicted to pain medic

Your body can crave pain medicine within three days (of use),” Schmolk said.

We receive some folks that will make the high last a little longer, Schmolk said.

Schmolk is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association which is trying to educate students about the danger of opioid use.

These addicts to opioids are a tough population to manage, she said.

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pill may cost $30 to $35, Schmolk said.

The hospital has a program called CARES (Cape Addictions Recovery Education Services), which Schmolk said is a viable option for people.

“We’re a little more unique. We’re different from all the districts but reduced aid in many, increased state aid in many,” said Robert Smith, president of the Cape May County School Boards Association.

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