

RESOLUTION 235

INAPPROPRIATE USE OF CDC GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS

Passed by the AMA House of Delegates on November 13, 2018

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association (AMA) applaud the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for its efforts to prevent the incidence of new cases of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose deaths (Directive To Take Action)

RESOLVED, that our AMA actively continue to communicate and engage with the nation's largest pharmacy chains, pharmacy benefit managers, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Federation of State Medical Boards, and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy in opposition to communications being sent to physicians that include a blanket proscription against filing prescriptions for opioids that exceed numerical thresholds without taking into account the diagnosis and previous response to treatment for a patient and any clinical nuances that would support such prescribing as falling within standards of good quality patient care.

RESOLVED, that Policies H-120.924, D-95.987, D-160.981, H-265.998, and H-220.951 be reaffirmed.

RESOLVED, that our AMA affirms that some patients with acute or chronic pain can benefit from taking opioid pain medications at doses greater than generally recommended in the *CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain* and that such care may be medically necessary and appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate against misapplication of the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids by pharmacists, health insurers, pharmacy benefit managers, legislatures, and governmental and private regulatory bodies in ways that prevent or limit patients' medical access to opioid analgesia, and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate that no entity should use MME (morphine milligram equivalents) thresholds as anything more than guidance, and physicians should not be subject to professional discipline, loss of board certification, loss of clinical privileges, criminal prosecution, civil liability, or other penalties or practice limitations solely for prescribing opioids at a quantitative level above the MME thresholds found in the *CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain*.
