

Who: Dont Punish Pain Rally  
What: 5th Dont Punish Pain Rally  
When: October 16, 2019 Time:  
Where:

The CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain were released in 2016. These guidelines were intended ONLY to provide recommendations for primary care clinicians who prescribe opioids for chronic pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of life care.” But legislators, pharmacy chains, insurers, and other agencies have seized on certain parts of its dosage and supply recommendations and translated them into blanket limits in laws and mandatory policies. Although many of these laws exempt patients with chronic or cancer pain, in practice they often affect those with long-term pain.

After the release of the CDC Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, millions of chronic pain patients went to follow-up appointments and discovered their provider would no longer treat chronic pain due to the CDC Guidelines. These patients were compliant patients, who were not abusing these FDA-approved prescription medications, and always used these medications as prescribed. Their health care providers had been prescribing FDA-approved opioids as just one part of an overall integrated treatment plan. The vast majority of chronically ill and chronic pain patients have developed good patient/provider relationships with their doctors, but the government has “critically fractured” these patient/provider relationships. Patients who have been treated appropriately and professionally by the same health care provider for years, are now finding it difficult to obtain the pain relief they need and were receiving from these same health care providers. Why? Because the Federal government now says that responsible and legitimate health care providers are the cause of the illicit opioid epidemic. This is just one of the many myths that has been promoted over and over in the media by the CDC, FDA and DEA. These same health care providers continue to feel forced by the government to remove legitimate patients off of these much-needed medications out of fear of losing their medical licenses and/or fear of jail time from the DEA. Millions of chronic illness patients found that they were simply dropped from their medications; without a safe and controlled weaning, and the medications were abruptly stopped. This has left millions who suffer from chronic

illnesses such as Crohn's Disease, Colitis, Sickle Cell, Fibromyalgia, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Chiari Malformation, Arachnoiditis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Degenerative Disc Disease, Degenerative Joint Disease, Cancer, and thousands of other painful illnesses, "homeless" in the medical community. On July 29, 2011, the Institute of Medicine submitted to Congress the first comprehensive report on the "state of pain" in the United States titled "Relieving Pain in America: A Blueprint for Transforming Prevention, Treatment, and Research." This report sent a clear message to policy makers and the American public "that pain is a major public health problem that needs to be addressed." According to the report, more than 100 million Americans suffer with chronic pain, costing at least \$560-\$635 billion annually. Many in the chronically ill community are disabled from the pain they endure every second, every minute, every hour and every day of their lives. Some of them used to be productive and able to work while on pain medication. Now they are forced to rely on Medicaid, or apply for disability. They turned from being taxpayers to needing welfare. Veterans, who have fought for our country, were told and continue to be told that they would no longer receive opioid pain medications for traumatic battlefield injuries, and are simply left to suffer.

Two and a half years after the release of the CDC's Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, the American Medical Association has taken a stand against the "misapplication" and "inappropriate use" of the guidelines by insurers, pharmacists, federal regulators and state Department of Health and Human Services issued its "Draft Report on Pain Management Best Practices: Updates, Gaps, Inconsistencies and Recommendations." This report confirms the fact that Pain Patients are being subject to "forced tapering" and "patient abandonment" due to State and Federal Regulations similar to the CDC Guidelines.

On April 9th 2019 FDA releases a safety announcement against forced tapering due to serious harm reported from sudden discontinuation of opioid pain medication .

On April 10th 2019 CDC Director clarifies the Guidelines stating that they do not endorse abrupt dose reduction or discontinuation of pain medication.

On May 10th 2019 HHS Pain Management Task Force passes a report discouraging using CDC arbitrarily defined MME limits in chronic pain management, instead promotes utilizing established measurable goals such as functionality, activities of daily living, and quality of life measures; dosing

should be based on patient needs. Regulators ignore warnings; continue threats against doctors/patients. The war on pain continues.

Please join us in at our “Don’t Punish Pain Rally” for the chronically ill community.

About the Don’t Punish Pain Rally: Our Mission is to energize the diverse community of people affected by pain by providing a rally for their voices to be heard. We want to help the public understand the difference between legally prescribed opioid medications and illegal illicit street drugs. We need our elected officials to stand up for the 100 million Americans who live with a chronic illness.

Don’t Punish Pain Rally Organization does not participate in fundraising. Various speakers will attend.

Media: