



June 6, 2019

Pain Patients Pushing Back on Misapplied Opioid Guideline

Fifty million Americans suffer from chronic pain, but the drive to end opioid abuse, which mostly involves illegal opioids, has left too many patients in desperate pain.

Pharmacists refuse to fill prescriptions for 25 percent of cancer patients, and insurers often refuse to pay for them. As a result, suicides are increasing. Now pain patients are pushing back. “Don’t Punish Pain” rallies took place on May 22 and a protest at the CDC is scheduled for June 21.

Pain experts say the 2016 federal opioid guideline has been misapplied, so HHS issued a 2019 clarification letter. But many doctors have already quit prescribing out of fear of prosecution or loss of license.

“The Unseen Victims of the Opioid Crisis Are Starting to Rebel,” Michele Cohen Marill, Wired, May 21, 2019: <https://www.wired.com/story/the-true-victims-of-the-opioid-crisis-are-starting-to-rebel/>

“**CDC Issues Clarification on Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain in Patients With Cancer and Slightly Cell Disease,**” The ASCO Post, April 9, 2019: <https://www.ascopost.com/News/59920>

Letter to Robert Carlson, MD, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Deborah Dowell, MD, MPH, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, February 28, 2019: <https://www.asco.org/sites/new-www.asco.org/files/content-files/advocacy-and-policy/documents/2019-CDC-Opioid-Guideline-Clarification-Letter-to-ASCO-ASH-NCCN.pdf>

“**CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain—United States, 2016,**” Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 18, 2016: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fmmwr%2Fvolumes%2F65%2Frr%2Frr6501e1er.htm

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

*The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 47 states:
Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH,
afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the CSN network
and Bott Radio Network.*