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Pain Patients Harmed by Opioid Rules

Nearly 18 million Americans are long-term opioid users because of chronic pain. But due to a 2016 federal prescribing guideline, many doctors have discontinued pain medications to avoid losing their license or being charged by the government as an “over-prescriber.” Despite most opioid deaths being due to heroin and illegally-produced fentanyl, these physicians have abandoned their patients to protect themselves.

Desperate patients, left to their own devices, may seek relief through dangerous street drugs or suicide, preferring death over a life of debilitating pain. Many were productive, responsible members of society until their lifeline was cut. This is a tragic example of government taking over the exam room.

“Overzealous Use of the CDC’s Opioid Prescribing Guideline is Harming Pain Patients,” Kate M. Nicholson, et al, STAT, December 6, 2018: <https://www.statnews.com/2018/12/06/overzealous-use-cdc-opioid-prescribing-guideline/>

“Rapidly Taking Patients Off Opioids Might Not be a Good Idea, Experts Say,” Tamara Mathias, Business Insider UK, Yahoo News, December 25, 2018: <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/rapidly-taking-patients-off-opioids-194302844.html?guccounter=1>

Addressing the limitations of the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Noncancer Pain,” Jason W. Busse, DC PhD, et al, CMAJ JAMC, December 6, 2016: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5135486/>

VIDEO ON TWITTER: Patient screaming in pain three days after pain medication taken away: <https://twitter.com/SparlingAngela/status/1075893918867177472>

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

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