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Here we are again. Same problems as before. Patients are not getting the care they need and doctors are afraid to give it, not so much because of what these guidelines say, but what they imply, that treating pain with an opioid is a punishable offense. Its not the guidelines themselves, it's that they exist at all. You guys really should give your attention to the AMA's opioid policy. Actually, the public should read it. This is the sort of separation you get when you ignore clinical evidence and the therapeutic value of opioid analgesics. When I think of CDC lately , I think of the 3 monkey statue, See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. When are we going to condemn these guidelines for the bad science they are based on? I want to thank whoever thought to put evidence grading in these guidelines. You should be ashamed. I believe 7 out of the 12 "suggestions" in the 2022 guidelines had grades of worst quality (grade 4, if memory serves). Its all based on "junk" science. Mostly opinion of the addiction treatment industry, who are the only ones to profit from it.

The real science says Rx abuse is steady,, has always been steady, and will probably always be steady, between 0.25% and 1%. This means 99% of the patients treated with opioids are subjected to drug testing, pill counts and more importantly, maximum levels of pain relief allowed by law. As the 2022 Guidelines lament:

"Of particular concern, some policies purportedly drawn from the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline have been notably inconsistent with it and have gone well beyond its clinical recommendations.. Such misapplication includes extension to patient populations not covered in the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline (e.g., cancer and palliative care patients), rapid opioid tapers and abrupt discontinuation without collaboration with patients, rigid application of opioid dosage thresholds, application of the guideline's recommendations for opioid use for pain to medications for opioid use disorder treatment (previously referred to as medication assisted treatment), duration limits by insurers and pharmacies, and patient dismissal and abandonment. These actions are not consistent with the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guideline and have contributed to patient harm, including untreated and undertreated pain, serious withdrawal symptoms, worsening pain outcomes, psychological distress, overdose, and suicidal ideation and behavior."

Every last one of those concerns still takes place with alarming regularity and more frequency if anything, since the 2022 revision. It must be apparent to you that most doctors are not reading these guidelines and if they do, they are not being properly applied. Most simply assume if they are as restrictive as possible, even to the point of never using an analgesic, much less an opioid. If that doesn't alarm you, it should, people are reporting surgeries with no post op pain control. Is this 2025 or 1025?

These guidelines have done more harm than good. The only good thing to come from them was it made it apparent to anyone who cares to see, that Rx drugs have little to do with the challenges of drug abuse and addiction. Pain is challenging enough without the damage caused by these guidelines. Its time to make them Ex-Guidelines....