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In 2016 the CDC published guidelines for prescribing opioid pain medication. The intention of these guidelines was to address what they referred to as an epidemic of overdose in the U.S. from opioid pain medication. When these guidelines were published many states used them as a rule book and created laws around them. Even the federal government and the DEA have been using these guidelines as rule and prosecuting doctors that are treating their patients pain. The rate of overdose in the United States since the implementation of the 2016 guidelines have increased by over 900% with no reduction in sight. In 2022 the CDC published updated opioid prescribing guidelines. In the update the wording was softened a bit. The word overdose or the phrase epidemic of overdose was eliminated from the guidelines altogether but the overall "guidelines" remained the same. There is still heavy emphasis on forcing patients to do experimental procedures/interventional pain procedures that are sometimes more harmful than helpful. There is still discouragement of any prescribing for any condition over 90 morphine milligram equivalents unless the condition is cancer. While I'm sure cancer is painful there are many incurable diseases that are just as painful if not more so than cancer. There was also still discouragement of allowing a patient to take opioids to relieve their pain and any type of benzodiazepine for any approved use even if the physician believes that the patient needs both for effective treatment. This forces patients to choose between their physical and mental health. As of today the 2016 guidelines are still the standard by which most physicians operate if they will prescribe anything for pain at all. They have witnessed their peers be arrested and convicted by the DEA and DOJ for simply treating their patients pain. As a result people with chronic painful conditions, injuries, and people recovering from surgeries are being given no pain relief or ineffective amounts of pain relief because their doctors and surgeons are afraid. Patients are still being force tapered off of their long term medications against their will. I understand the need for monitoring of these medications to prevent abuse. That is why we sign contracts, have urine drug screens, and have the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. No doctor should have to fear for their lives and freedom for simply treating their patients pain in a controlled environment. The laws are still the same and the updated 2022 guidelines have unfortunately changed nothing. We are still being abandoned by our physicians which is causing suffering and desperate decisions. Suicide rates due to chronic pain are at an all time high. People are turning to less safe street drug options which is fueling the fentanyl poisoning epidemic that we are actually facing in the US. We need help to stop this suffering and death. The laws must be changed to reflect a patient and doctors right to make decisions regarding their own health, our government should not be a part of this decision. This started with the 2016 guidelines and implementation of laws based on them. I believe that the CDC has a duty to help correct what they created. We must listen to the data and information that the AMA and many other medical professionals have recommended. Not the doctors of PROP who are still insisting that it is FDA approved opioid medications fueling these overdose numbers even when given evidence that it certainly is not.