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Comments Received:

I am the husband of a person with chronic pain and a veteran with my own pain issues. The guidelines issued by the CDC are too restrictive when it comes to individual patient care and are being implemented to law in most states where the opioid crisis had the greatest impact. The PDMP was created to prevent patients from doctor shopping and for patients following the rules that should be the limit of the legal systems intrusion into the patient doctor relationship. A hard limit as suggested by the CDC and enforced by local and federal law enforcement is a step too far. Patient care should be an individualized solution with consideration given to the expertise of the doctor. The CDC DEA and local officials have no business interfering if the patient is seeing a single physician and with the PDMP the doctor can see they are the only person they get meds from. Beyond that responsibility needs to be bore by the individual and not the doctor. With the guidelines in place the doctors fear treating any progressive illness except cancer with opioids, instead patients are given procedures and implants and drugs prescribed off label to attempt to alleviate the pain. Most of the time the effects of the alternatives are worse than taking an opioid. So no the CDC needs to repeal and state clearly their original guidelines should no longer apply to a responsible doctor patient relationship. They need to also clearly state that the ongoing overdose problem stems from the illegal drug trade. They also need to clarify that any responsible doctor patient relationship no matter the specialization should be allowed to treat the pain associated with the disease they are treating and not have to refer out to a pain management specialist who in my wife's case has no understanding of the disease he is treating. So in conclusion the CDC guidelines have been dually enforced by state and federal law enforcement to the detriment of millions of patients by scaring their doctors into a limited care window. The CDC must publicly and loudly denounce the weaponization of the guidelines and give the latitude to doctors to provide individualized care all while using the PDMP to ensure individual care.