

Author Full Name : Darlene**Received Date :** 01/18/2025 03:35 PM**Comments Received :**

1. These sickening guidelines were written by unqualified, biased people who don't have experience in pain management and who have financial stakes in pushing Indivior's suboxone products and therefore want to characterize all pain patients as drug addicts requiring expensive rehab programs and still-under-patent drugs.
2. The 2016 guidelines have been widely adopted as a treatment algorithm by hospital systems, insurance carriers, and uncritical doctors of all kinds who are susceptible to groupthink about opioid prescribing. The DEA has enforced it as LAW, confiscating assets of any doctor who dares treat the guidelines as guidelines, rather than law, and sending a message to all doctors who prescribe opioids compassionately that they'd better stop if they want to stay practicing and gainfully employed. DEA has targeted (bullied) small, independently practicing doctors who don't have the backing of a large corporate legal team to protect them. When you walked back the guidelines with a 2022 update, it had virtually no effect and "easing the pain." It's now entrenched in state laws and medical board guidelines all over the country, like a cancer on our already disgusting, dysfunctional medical system.
3. Patients who have chronic pain can't get doctors to help them with needed opioid medicines. Doctors are too scared to prescribe. Patients are left with the options of suicide or looking for street drugs to treat their pain. Some make do with kratom, which is often inadequate and comes with a financial burden since insurance won't cover kratom. People pay into their insurance premiums expecting coverage for prescription medications but are treated like pariahs undeserving of compassionate care. We are tired of paying out-of-pocket for care that should be covered. Because of loss of treatment, chronic pain patients are losing their jobs and income and filing for Social Security Disability because they can't get their pain treated.
4. In the unlikely event that a chronic pain patient gets a script from a doctor, they often can't fill it because the pharmacists are all brainwashed by these guidelines and will refuse to fill the script.

Chronic pain patients are sick and tired of waiting for government to fix this abomination of a guideline. The CDC is supposed to deal with contagious diseases. Defining a trend in overdoses as a transmissible disease was your first fatal error. The overdose problem needs social solutions, not disease containment efforts. The complete lack of nuance and individualized treatment is making the overdose problem worse. Your own statistics bear this out: the defacto-ban on prescribing of opioids resulted in overdose rates climbing exponentially.

At some point we will get sick of asking you nicely to stop torturing us and we will openly rebel. Our backs are up against the wall and we have very little left to lose at this point. Please get a clue and revoke this idiotic guideline completely. While you're at it, abolish the corrupt DEA and the Controlled Substances Act. Both were always meant to cruelly round up, incarcerate, and punish minority groups who were deemed as "enemies." End the damned drug war once and for all.