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Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket Number: FDA-2017-N-1094

Dear FDA Officers:

The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM), representing the specialty of pain medicine, writes to offer guidance on **training health care providers on pain management and safe use of opioid analgesics.**

AAPM supports efforts to ensure that all healthcare providers receive education and training in pain management and the safe use of opioids, starting at their undergraduate training and extending through their maintenance of certification. In particular, the Academy urges awareness about the wide range of treatment therapies available to help patients suffering from pain and pain-related psychosocial dysfunction to regain their quality of life. Today, as millions of Americans suffer from acute and high-impact chronic pain – and while the prescription of analgesics to treat pain continues to decline in response to the opioid epidemic – it is more important than ever to ensure that healthcare providers understand the importance of delivering the right care to patients suffering from pain.

Respectfully submitted,

American Academy of Pain Medicine

About AAPM

The American Academy of Pain Medicine is the premier medical association for pain physicians and their treatment teams with some 2,000 members. Now in its 35th year of service, the Academy's mission is to optimize the health of patients in pain and eliminate pain as a major public health problem by advancing the practice and specialty of pain medicine through education, training, advocacy and research. Information is available on the Academy's website at www.painmed.org.