



8735 W. Higgins Road, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60631-2738
847-375-4731 Phone
info@painmed.org
.....
www.painmed.org

Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic: Balancing Societal and Individual Benefits and Risks of Prescription Opioid Use

A statement from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) applauds the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) for its efforts in preparing the [July 13, 2017 report](#), *Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic: Balancing Societal and Individual Benefits and Risks of Prescription Opioid Use*. The report, which appropriately details the pressing public health challenges pertaining to the burden of pain on Americans and the increasing toll of the opioid epidemic on society, provides a number of thoughtful recommendations to increase understanding of the interplay between the two.

In particular, AAPM supports the recommendations of the report's authors that address the dual public health burdens of undertreated pain and opioid use disorder, and include a call for investment in research to better understand pain and opioid use disorder, the development of comprehensive pain education materials and curricula for health care providers, and greater access to drug take-back programs. Additional recommendations expanding support of evidence-based pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic comprehensive care and the development of reimbursement models for and access to comprehensive pain management programs fit the long history and mission of AAPM.

"In medicine we are always trying to strike a balance between improving quality of life for patients while limiting or eliminating adverse events and harms," says AAPM President Steven P. Stanos, DO. "We need to be sure to seek that same balance when treating an individual's pain, especially when their treatment plan may include the use of opioid analgesics. That balance in helping manage the burden of pain must also consider the impact beyond the patient, including their families and the communities they live in."

July 14, 2017