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## **Safe Controlled Substance Practices**

*A position statement from the American Academy of Pain Medicine*

### **AAPM Supports Safe Controlled Substance Practices**

The American Academy of Pain Medicine, as the leading advocate for Pain Medicine practices in the U.S. and the primary organization for Pain Medicine physicians, supports responsible and safe practices involving the prescribing and use of controlled substances.

Prescription drug abuse is a significant social problem that must be addressed responsibly. Physicians that provide pain care must be aware of the potential for abuse and diversion of controlled substances. The under-treatment of pain is also a significant medical problem that must be addressed responsibly by the medical community.

AAPM supports measures that reduce prescription drug abuse without deterring access to appropriate pain care for legitimate patients and the right of physicians to practice responsible Pain Medicine. The Academy will continue to work towards these goals through advocacy, research, promotion of best clinical practices, and continuing medical education.

AAPM, founded in 1983, is the recognized authority on the evaluation and care of patients with pain. It is a professional community of physicians with a sustained interest in pain disorders and their management, with a background in related specialties such as anesthesiology, internal medicine, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, physiatry, family practice, and psychiatry."

*Approved by the AAPM Board of Directors on May 23, 2008.*