AAPM Leads a Call for Retention of HCAHPS Pain-Related Questions

May 2, 2016 [Source: AAPM]

As part of the Affordable Care Act, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has initiated a national, standardized, publicly reported survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care, HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems). The HCAHPS survey is designed to impact hospital reimbursement and thereby create incentives for improving the quality of patient care in a number of areas, including pain management. There has been speculation and discussion about whether the questions about pain management have the unintended consequence of encouraging physicians to prescribe opioids more liberally than they otherwise might. Indeed, several legislative bills have proposed removing the pain questions for this reason; other efforts focus on de-linking the pain questions from any reimbursement. The Academy had took a leadership position by calling for retention of the HCAHPS questions related to the quality of pain control - a position not universally supported across medicine - in the belief that retaining these questions helps to promote quality patient care. AAPM was joined by nine other medical societies in support of these efforts.

To view letter to CMS...
Pain Research in the News

Many Patients Abusing Drugs and Alcohol are Self-Medicating Chronic Pain

May 10, 2016 [Source: Boston University School of Medicine]

In a study that appears in the May issue of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, researchers at Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center have found that the majority of patients misusing drugs and alcohol have chronic pain and many are using these substances to "self-medicate" their pain. [Full story...](#)

New Research Analysis Indicates Massage Therapy Strongly Recommended for Pain Management

May 10, 2016 [Source: American Massage Therapy Association]

Based on the evidence, massage therapy can provide significant improvement for pain, anxiety and health-related quality of life for those looking to manage their pain. This is the conclusion of a collaborative meta-analysis of research on massage therapy for pain conducted by the Samueli Institute and commissioned by the Massage Therapy Foundation, with support from the American Massage Therapy Association. The first part of the three-part review and analysis has been published online by the journal *Pain Medicine*. [Full story...](#)

Migraine Drugs Underused

May 9, 2016 [Source: Thomas Jefferson University]

About 38 million Americans suffer from migraines in the United States, according to the Migraine Research Foundation. The most commonly used and effective classes of medication, triptans and DHE (Dihydroergotamine), however, have a black box warning for two subtypes of migraine because of risk of stroke. Now researchers at Abington-Jefferson Health have shown that patients who were given the drugs off-label had no stroke or other cardiovascular side-effects from taking the drugs. [Full story...](#)

Research Findings Reveal Potential to Reverse Cancer-Related Nerve Pain

May 5, 2016 [Source: MD Anderson Cancer Center]

A study providing new information about neuropathic pain afflicting some 90 percent of cancer patients who have had nerve damage caused by tumors, surgery, chemotherapy or radiation indicates gene therapy as a possible treatment. [Full story...](#)

Study Shows Pain Causes Older Adults to Develop More Inflammation Over a Longer Period of Time

May 4, 2016 [Source: University of Florida]

When older relatives complain about their pains, show a little empathy, because new research suggests that as we age, we may all become more sensitive to pain. A small, preliminary University of Florida Health study has suggested for the first time that inflammation may occur more quickly and at a higher magnitude - and stays around longer - when older adults experience pain versus when younger adults experience pain. [Full story...](#)
Pain News

Confronting a Crisis: An Open Letter to America’s Physicians on the Opioid Epidemic
Blog Post by Steven J. Stack, Emergency physicians and 170th President of the American Medical Association
May 11, 2016 [Source: HuffPost Healthy Living, The Blog]
Full story...

How Kaiser, Blue Shield Will Seek to Limit Opioid Overdoses
May 10, 2016 [Source: Southern California Public Radio (SCPR)]
Full story...

West Virginia University Offers Courses to Reduce Opioid Use
West Virginia University has added a new online course, "The Treatment of Pain and Addiction Utilizing Education and Proper Prescribing: The New Paradigm Continued." The course will provide West Virginia physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and dentists with continuing education credit, and also fulfill the state’s requirement for training in avoiding diversion of prescriptions drugs into the illicit market. Full story...

MA: State Health Officials Release Updated Opioid-Related Overdose Data
May 2, 2016 [Source: Massachusetts Health and Human Services]
Full story...

Walgreens Leads Fight Against Prescription Drug Abuse in California with New Program to Help Curb Misuse of Medications and the Rise in Overdose Deaths
April 22, 2016 [Source: Walgreens]
Walgreens today announced that it has implemented the first of two programs in California to combat drug abuse, part of a comprehensive national plan announced earlier this year to address key contributors to the crisis. Full story...

More jobs...

Updates

Need Facts on Pain?
Visit AAPM's "Facts on Pain" section in the Patient Center of the AAPM website, which now includes detailed references to each fact. These are helpful to have on hand for media calls. Read more...

Affiliate Membership
Are the members of your pain team AAPM members? Affiliate membership information...

The American Board of Pain Medicine (ABPM) is committed to the certification of qualified physicians in the field of pain medicine. Visit ABPM's website to view ABPM's mission, vision, and objectives.

Practice Management & Coding Updates

Now Available for Purchase in the AAPM Education Center: Understanding RBRVS and What it Means for You and Your Practice Virtual Seminar
This virtual seminar discusses the requirements for determining and assigning RVUs to physician services and the impact on appropriate coding. It also addresses the need for physicians to understand how compensation models based on RBRVS are constructed and how to evaluate these models. Other opportunities to apply RBRVS to practice management activities will be reviewed. Order now...

2016 Illustrated Coding and Billing Expert for Anesthesia/Pain Management
Optimized for medical necessity and reimbursement understanding, this all-in-one resource focuses on a subset of CPT anesthesia services, as well as surgeries, medicine and ancillary services CPT codes linked to Pain Management interventions chosen by experts who take into consideration utilization, denial risk and complexity. Order Now...
AAPM Annual Meeting News

AAPM's 2017 Annual Meeting Call for Education Session Proposals is Now Live
Submission Deadline: May 30, 2016
AAPM is now seeking education session proposals for its 33rd Annual Meeting, which will be held March 16-19, with pre-meeting activities beginning on March 15-16, in Orlando, FL.

To learn more about submitting an education session proposal...

2016 Annual Meeting News:

Stratification Tool for Opioid Risk Mitigation Helps Predict and Prevent Adverse Events
May 9, 2016 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

Full story...

Low-Dose Naltrexone May Provide Relief for Fibromyalgia Patients
May 3, 2016 [Source: Pain Medicine News]

Full story...

FDA Panel: Physician Opioid Training Should Be Mandatory
May 6, 2016 [Source: Medscape]

Full story (login required)...

Surgeon General Calls for More Robust Physician Training for Opioid Prescribing
May 5, 2016 [Source: Becker's Hospital Review]

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, on Wednesday said training needs to be ramped up for physicians who prescribe opioids, according to The Hill.

Full story...

FDA Warnings and Recalls

Olanzapine: Drug Safety Communication - FDA Warns About Rare But Serious Skin Reactions
May 10, 2016 [Source: FDA]

Full story...

May 3, 2016 [Source: FDA]
Drug Seeker, Doctor Shopper... or Person in Pain?

May 10, 2016 [Source: National Pain Report]

AAPM President Daniel B. Carr, MD is interviewed in a National Pain Report article discussing the factors that have helped create the current atmosphere that stigmatizes pain patients. Full story...

Legislative News

Kaine Urges FDA To Approve Mandatory Prescriber Training On Opioids

May 6, 2016 [Source: U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, VA]

Full story...

Substance Abuse and Addiction Research

How to Talk about Substance Use Disorders with Your Patients

May 2, 2016 [Source: AMA Wire]

Full story...

AAPM Members in the News

Drug Seeker, Doctor Shopper... or Person in Pain?

May 10, 2016 [Source: National Pain Report]

AAPM President Daniel B. Carr, MD is interviewed in a National Pain Report article discussing the factors that have helped create the current atmosphere that stigmatizes pain patients. Full story...

Pain Abstracts in the News

Medical Error-the Third Leading Cause of Death in the US

May 3, 2016 [Source: British Medical Journal]

Read more...

Buprenorphine Prescribing: To Expand or Not to Expand

May 2016 [Source: Journal of Psychiatric Practice]

Abstract: This article first reviews the pharmacology, clinical use, and US legislative action related to buprenorphine, followed by a discussion of the misuse and diversion of buprenorphine in the United States as well as internationally. We then explore the impact of buprenorphine abuse as well as discussing strategies for its reduction, including changes in policy, prescription and pharmacy monitoring, and continuing medical education for guiding and improving clinical practice.

Read more...
PubMed Pain Abstracts

The following abstracts are posted at PubMed.gov:

Opioids and Social Bonding: Naltrexone Reduces Feelings of Social Connection
Abstract: Close social bonds are critical to a happy and fulfilled life and yet little is known, in humans, about the neurochemical mechanisms that keep individuals feeling close and connected to one another. According to the brain opioid theory of social attachment, opioids may underlie the contented feelings associated with social connection and may be critical to continued bonding. However, the role of opioids in feelings of connection toward close others has only begun to be examined in humans. In a double-blind, placebo-controlled, crossover study of naltrexone (an opioid antagonist), 31 volunteers took naltrexone for 4 days and placebo for 4 days (separated by a 10-day washout period).

© The Author (2016). Published by Oxford University Press.
PMID: 26796966 [PubMed - in process]
PMCID: PMC4847702
Read more...

Neuropathic Pain: an Updated Grading System for Research and Clinical Practice
Pain. 2016 Apr 28. [Epub ahead of print]
Abstract: The redefinition of neuropathic pain as "pain arising as a direct consequence of a lesion or disease affecting the somatosensory system," which was suggested by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Special Interest Group on Neuropathic Pain (NeuPSIG) in 2008, has been widely accepted. In contrast, the proposed grading system of possible, probable, and definite neuropathic pain from 2008 has been used to a lesser extent. Here, we report a citation analysis of the original NeuPSIG grading paper of 2008, followed by an analysis of its use by an expert panel and recommendations for an improved grading system.
PMID: 27115670 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]
Read more...

Back to top

NIH Clinical Studies & Trials

The following studies and trials are posted at ClinicalTrials.gov:

An Exploratory Prospective Trial of Rescue Acupuncture for the Treatment of Acute Migraine
This study is currently recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital
Principal Investigator: Sarah Bobnick, DO, Principal Investigator
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02764996
First received: May 2, 2016
Stated Purpose: This will be an exploratory observational trial of rescue acupuncture for the treatment of acute migraine in military beneficiaries to gain information to inform the power analysis of a larger, more definitive trial. Researchers do not seek to definitively answer the question of whether this acupuncture protocol is effective; rather, we seek to estimate the proportion of migraine episodes that result in headache-free status 20-30 minutes, 2 hours, 4 hours, and 24 hours after an acupuncture treatment.
Read more...
Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation for Chronic Low Back Pain
This study is ongoing, but not recruiting participants.
Sponsor: Butler Hospital
Information provided by (Responsible Party): Butler Hospital
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02768129
First received: May 9, 2016
Stated Purpose: The goal of this study is to investigate the role of central neural pathways in mediating chronic pain. The aim of the study is to test the effect of stimulating brain regions that are part of a network underlying central pain processing using a non-invasive brain stimulation technique, transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS). Prior studies have used tDCS to target both sensory related cortical areas and those important for higher-order representations of pain.
Read more...

Back to top

Industry News

Statement Regarding FDA Advisory Committee Meeting on KemPharm’s Abuse-Deterrent Product Candidate Apadaz™
May 5, 2016 [Source: KemPharm]
Full story...

Regeneron Announces Positive Topline Results from Phase 2/3 Fasinumab Study in Patients with Osteoarthritis Pain
May 3, 2016 [Source: Regeneron]
Full story...

Back to top

American Academy of Pain Medicine
8735 W. Higgins Road, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60631
Phone: 847/375-4731 Fax: 847/375-6477
info@painmed.org Visit our website