

SUBJECT: Lack of Education on Opioid Use
SUBMITTED BY: California Society of American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
REFERRED TO: 2016 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)

RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 WHEREAS, the majority of members of our medical community admit that they have not received
2 enough training on long-term opioids to properly manage chronic pain patients, and
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4 WHEREAS, despite pain affecting approximately 125 million adults in the United States and costing
5 \$ 635 billion, U.S. Medical Schools still have a limited amount of training in pain
6 management, and
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8 WHEREAS, there are approximately 6,600 Board Certified Pain Specialists in America with
9 potentially 360 million patients, and
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11 WHEREAS, appropriate use of opioids is difficult for many clinicians to gain a solid understanding
12 for best practices, and
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14 WHEREAS, physicians who are treating patients with chronic pain face multiple challenges
15 including the lack of education in treating the whole person, and
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17 WHEREAS, a pain management specialist in 2015 reported on the following estimates:
18 at least 60 percent of primaries lack of understanding of the definition of acute pain,
19 at least 80 percent of primaries have difficulty in distinctions of treatment plans,
20 at least 80 percent lack resources to identify patients who could benefit from long-term
21 opioid therapy,
22 at least 80 percent misuse, abuse, and diversion are poorly understood by the medical
23 community in general, and
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25 WHEREAS, educational needs and practice gaps in family medicine are a concern of our College,
26 and family medicine physicians may not appreciate the magnitude of opioid abuse in the
27 community, and
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29 WHEREAS, most in the field of pain management agree that clear guidelines on long-term opioid
30 use are necessitated, especially in the use of opioids incorporated into clinical practice, and
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32 WHEREAS, the aforementioned are challenges of caring for those in chronic pain requiring an
33 extended skill set in order to properly care for these individuals; now, therefore be it
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35 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Board of
36 Governors directs the ACOFP Committee on Education & Evaluation or the ACOFP Program
37 Committee to develop guidelines and/or pain models for the family physician.

ACTION _____