



[1]

VIEW
PDF

[2]

Pain Management Best Practices: Updates, Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Recommendations (Report)

Originating Entity

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [6]

Last Action

Final report released

Date of Last Action

May 9 2019

Date Introduced

Dec 31 2018

Publication Date

Jan 2 2019

SciPol Summary

The **Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force** [7] (Task Force) published their report on **Pain Management Best Practices: Updates, Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Recommendations** [5], which was created under the **Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act** [8] (CARA) of 2016 to identify how management of chronic and acute pain could be improved. CARA was passed in response to the ongoing **opioid epidemic** [9]; it disbursed grants to help curtail the crisis, one of which (Section 101) funded the Task Force.

The Task Force examines ways to curtail opioid use with other treatment regimens for both acute and chronic pain. For acute pain, the report recommends first treating with nonopioid medications, **ultrasound-guided nerve blocks** [10], and novel therapies such as lidocaine or ketamine before, if needed, progressing to opioid-based treatment. For chronic pain, recommendations include using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (e.g., aspirin, ibuprofen, and naproxen), antidepressants, and anxiolytics (to cope with anxiety related to chronic pain) before opioid-based treatment. For both acute and chronic pain, the report emphasizes the importance of developing more specific protocols for different conditions; currently, opioids are often prescribed as a first line of defense against pain generally. The report further states that educating physicians and patients about alternative approaches to pain alleviation could help abate the current crisis by using non opioid-based treatment regimens when appropriate.

Related News

Learning to say no: Hospitals train emergency doctors to resist prescribing opioids [12]

STAT [13] – "This guy was not a substance abuser before. Because of the pain medicine, he became one. We asked ourselves: Were we responsible for it?"

[READ MORE](#) [12]

White House moves quickly to release opioid money [14]

USA TODAY [15] – With \$500 million in hand to fight the opioid epidemic, White House officials are moving quickly to get that money flowing to the hardest-hit states—and pushing local officials to spend the new dollars on treatment above other addiction-related initiatives.

[READ MORE](#) [14]

Pharmacies Thrive Selling Opioids For Depressed Small Town Pain [16]

Kaiser Health News [17] – The economically depressed city of Manchester, Kentucky, located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, is an image of frozen-in-time decline. But there is one type of business that seems to thrive: pharmacies.

[READ MORE](#) [16]

[SEE ALL RELATED NEWS](#) [18]

Related Engagements

June 26, 2019 - 5:00pm

HHS Teleconference: Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force [19]

The purpose of this meeting is for the Task Force to collaborate with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to discuss payment and coverage policies for chronic and acute pain, service delivery models, access to therapies and medical devices, and other issues.

[READ MORE](#) [19]

May 28, 2019 - 2:30pm

NIH Meeting: Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee [20]

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will hold a meeting of its Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee. The meeting will include discussions of committee business items including information about the NIH HEAL Initiative and an update on the Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force.

[READ MORE](#) [20]

May 9, 2019 - 10:00am

HHS Meeting: Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force [21]

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will hold the third meeting of the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force. The Task Force will vote on the final draft Task Force recommendations for acute and chronic pain management. The plan to disseminate information about best practices for pain management will be presented.

[READ MORE](#) [21]

[SEE ALL RELATED
ENGAGEMENTS](#)

[22]

Source URL: <https://scipol.org/track/pain-management-best-practices-updates-gaps-inconsistencies-and-recommendations-hhs-draft>

Links

[1] <https://scipol.org/taxonomy/term/9>

- [2] <https://scipol.org/printpdf/track/pain-management-best-practices-updates-gaps-inconsistencies-and-recommendations-hhs-draft>
- [3] <https://scipol.org/scitalk/debate-ongoing>
- [4] <https://scipol.org/%23>
- [5] <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pmtf-final-report-2019-05-23.pdf>
- [6] <https://scipol.org/source/department-health-and-human-services-hhs>
- [7] <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/advisory-committees/pain/index.html>
- [8] <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ198/PLAW-114publ198.pdf>
- [9] <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>
- [10] <https://www.nysora.com/foundations-of-regional-anesthesia/equipment/introduction-ultrasound-guided-regional-anesthesia/>
- [11] <https://scipol.org/content-authors/cameron-fox-ma-candidate>
- [12] <https://scipol.org/news/learning-say-no-hospitals-train-emergency-doctors-resist-prescribing-opioids>
- [13] <https://www.statnews.com/2017/01/23/opioids-emergency-room>
- [14] <https://scipol.org/news/white-house-moves-quickly-release-opioid-money>
- [15] <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/12/13/white-house-moves-quickly-release-opioid-money/95388068/>
- [16] <https://scipol.org/news/pharmacies-thrive-selling-opioids-depressed-small-town-pain>
- [17] <http://khn.org/news/pharmacies-thrive-selling-opioids-for-depressed-small-town-pain/>
- [18] <https://scipol.org/news/15287>
- [19] <https://scipol.org/engage/hhs-teleconference-pain-management-best-practices-inter-agency-task-force>
- [20] <https://scipol.org/engage/nih-meeting-interagency-pain-research-coordinating-committee>
- [21] <https://scipol.org/engage/hhs-meeting-pain-management-best-practices-inter-agency-task-force-0>
- [22] <https://scipol.org/engagements/15287>