

Together, Let's Treat the Pain with Understanding

Pain should be treated with understanding.

Treating pain requires patience, compassion, appropriate medications, medical supervision, and – perhaps most importantly – a common language and understanding. Partners Against Pain, our therapeutic alliance of healthcare professionals, patients with pain and their families, sponsors the award-winning website – www.partnersagainstpain.com – an invaluable resource providing pain information, assessment tools, and support – 24 hours a day.

Pain Cannot Be Treated with Misconceptions.

Confusion over the meaning of such terms as “addiction,” “tolerance”, and “physical dependence,” have fed misconceptions and resulted in significant setbacks in the effective treatment of chronic pain. Only by adopting a standard language can we begin to distinguish abuse from proper use and, in general, communicate accurately amongst ourselves and thereby to the world at large.

It's a Delicate Balancing Act.

Twenty-one (21) national health organizations and The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) recently announced a joint initiative aimed at preventing the abuse of prescription pain medications while also ensuring that these important medications remain available to patients who need them just to comfortably get through their day. This initiative constitutes the first time the DEA has joined forces with such health care groups to advocate better pain management.

It's a Fact.

Every day, millions of Americans suffer from chronic, untreated pain. But abuse of prescription pain medications – including opioids – is also an ongoing concern. Only by addressing both of these problems can we hope to make progress in treating either.

Proper Pain Treatment Should Be Everyone's Right.

Pain may be inescapable, but proper treatment of pain should be every patient's right. If you would like to join others who are working together to prevent abuse of prescription medications – while also ensuring that legitimate pain patients have access to life-saving medications – we invite you to visit: www.partnersagainstpain.com

Definitions Related to the Use of Opioids for the Treatment of Pain.

Addiction is a primary, chronic, neurobiologic disease, with genetic, psychosocial, and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. It is characterized by behaviors that include one or more of the following: impaired control over drug use, compulsive use, continued use despite harm, and craving.

Physical dependence is a state of adaptation that is manifested by a drug class specific withdrawal syndrome that can be produced by abrupt cessation, rapid dose reduction, decreasing blood levels of the drug, and/or administration of an antagonist.

Tolerance is a state of adaptation in which exposure to a drug induces changes that result in a diminution of one or more of the drug's effects over time.

