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Advocating in Today's Medical Environment

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Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group



FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



FDA



FDA identifies harm reported from sudden discontinuation of opioid pain medicines and requires label changes to guide prescribers on gradual, individualized tapering



CDC



No Shortcuts to Safer Prescribing

Authors of the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines issued an announcement advising practitioners against misapplication of the Guideline that can risk patient health and safety.

FDA received reports of serious harm in patients who are physically dependent on opioid pain medicines suddenly having these medicines discontinued or the dose rapidly decreased. These include serious withdrawal symptoms, uncontrolled pain, psychological distress, and suicide.



HHS



Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics

Provides advice to clinicians who are contemplating or initiating a reduction in opioid dosage or discontinuation of long-term opioid therapy for chronic pain.

National guidelines are increasingly used by providers to determine the care plans for their patients. It is important that our providers understand these are guidelines only and are not rigid recommendations to be applied to all patients. Rather doctors are encouraged to use these guidelines alongside their clinical judgement and the individualized patient needs. Providers must ensure not to misapply these guidelines Failure to do so puts patients at substantial risks, including medical collapse, mental health crisis, suicide attempts and/or the illicit drug use. Providers must ensure all patients are offered safe, individualized care plan that includes the patient in the decision making process.

FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-identifies-harm-reported-sudden-discontinuation-opioid-pain-medicines-and-requires-label-changes>

HHS: https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/sites/default/files/2019-10/Dosage_Reduction_Discontinuation.pdf

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/s0424-advises-misapplication-guideline-prescribing-opioids.html>



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