

AMCP

POLICY DIGEST

Management of Opioids/Policy 1306

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is focused on identifying the improper use of opioids and the enormous costs to Society that go beyond traditional health care costs. AMCP wants to assure the proper management of patients suffering from uncontrolled pain, cancer and those who are terminally ill, while limiting the abuse and diversion of opioids. Policies that address the opioid epidemic must strike a balance that maintains appropriate access for those patients. AMCP advocates for sensible changes to existing laws at the federal and state level to authorize implementation of patient safety programs such as requiring electronic prescribing (e-prescribing) of opioids, updating Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) and continuing medication education for prescribers. AMCP also supports the ongoing development and implementation of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) and expanding access to PDMPs to include health plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Giving those organization access to PDMPs will enhance their ability to recognize and assist patients that may be abusing opioids while identifying those patients that may be a source of diversion.

AMCP encourages strategies addressing overdose education including naloxone distribution programs as well as the proper disposal of unused prescription opioids and Drug Takeback Days as tools to combat diversion in communities across the country. AMCP supports a legislative and regulatory framework that increases the ability of health plans and PBMs to effectively manage the use of opioids, in a clinically appropriate manner and limit the potential for abuse, using managed care strategies in collaboration with others in the health care community.

*06/01/2013 Introduced**

*04/23/2018 Revised (*subject originally included policy on abuse deterrent and tamper resistant formulations, those subjects now included in Policy 1802)*