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Every year an estimated 75 million Americans experience acute pain due to injury, surgery or chronic pain; yet many types of pain are undertreated. In 1999, the American Pain Society and the American Academy of Pain Medicine conducted a survey that found **3 out of 4 individuals with pain receive inappropriate therapy**.^{1,2} The Federation of State Medical Boards note four major challenges attributed to inadequate pain control:

1. Lack of knowledge of medical standards, current research, and clinical guidelines for appropriate pain treatment;
2. The perception that prescribing adequate amounts of controlled substances will result in unnecessary scrutiny by regulatory authorities;
3. Misunderstanding of addiction and dependence; and
4. Lack of understanding of regulatory policies and processes.³

Emerging Solutions in Pain (ESP) is a comprehensive initiative designed to assist the pain management clinician to overcome the many challenges they face by providing an array of practical tools, resources and programs. **ESP** envisions the balance between treating pain patients and complying with state and federal regulations.





A diverse array of clinician friendly tools and programs presented in a variety of formats.

ESP Tool Kit

Developed by physicians for clinicians to address critical issues surrounding the use of opioid analgesics. These issues include: a patient's right to the treatment of pain; identifying and treating patients at risk of misuse, abuse, and addiction; and understanding and complying with complex federal and state regulations.

The Tool Kit is a multimedia collection of practical, educational resources and patient case studies that can be adapted into clinical practice.

- Patient assessment and establishing a therapeutic clinician/patient alliance;
- Patient monitoring to evaluate patients' progress throughout the treatment continuum; and
- Best practices that help clinicians optimize the quality of patient care

ESP Live Events

*RES*ponsible *Pain Education Can be Therapeutic (RESPECT)* – An accredited series of regional meetings to educate pain management clinicians on the role of opioid therapy in the chronic pain patient while appropriately assessing and monitoring the potential risks of misuse, abuse, and addiction.

ESP Meet the Experts Exhibit Booth

An informational and interactive exhibit booth introducing leading experts in pain and addiction medicine at select national healthcare association conferences. The goal of the booth is to introduce the ESP initiative, focus on current trends in pain management, and provide a live forum for expert and attendee interaction.

References

1. American Pain Society. Pain: Current understanding of assessment management and treatment. Available at: http://www.ampainsoc.org/ce/ncp/11a_introduction.htm. Released July 19, 2004.
2. Chronic Pain in America Survey. Conducted for American Pain Society, the American Academy of Pain Medicine, and Janssen Pharmaceutica, 1999.
3. Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. Model guidelines for the use of controlled substances for the treatment of pain. May 2004. Available at: http://www.fsmb.org/Policy%20Documents%20and%20White%20Papers/2004_model_pain_policy.asp. Accessed January 2005.

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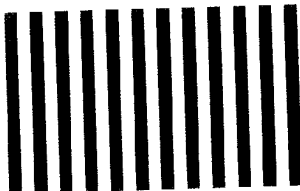
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The *Emerging Solutions in Pain* initiatives were designed to assist clinicians, law enforcement personnel, and the general public in becoming more aware of both the use and abuse of pain medications. Because opioids are one of several types of controlled substances that have potential for abuse, they are carefully regulated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and other state agencies. For example, a physician must be licensed by state medical authorities and registered with the DEA before prescribing a controlled substance.

Tool Kit

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