Health Care Providers, Patient Pain and the Opioid Crisis

On April 17, 2019, 60 health professionals across five states were charged with health care fraud related to opioid prescribing. Although the U.S. Department of Justice categorizes this and similar cases as “extreme outliers,” many health care workers are concerned that the opioid crisis has created a legal environment too rigid to properly treat patients’ pain without fear of reprisal. Below are a selection of articles exploring the relationship between health care providers, patients and the federal government in the wake of the opioid crisis.

FDA Statement on new opioid analgesic labeling changes to give providers better information for how to properly taper patients who are physically dependent on opioids. Throckmorton, D.

Laws limiting the prescribing or dispensing of opioids for acute pain in the United States: A national systematic legal review. Davis CS, Lieberman AJ, Hernandez-Delgado H, Suba C.

Opiate Dependence or Addiction?: A Review of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Management of Chronic Pain. Dobbs GC, Fogger SA.

Opioid Prescribing Limits for Acute Pain - Striking the Right Balance. Lowenstein M, Grande D, Delgado MK.

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