

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
POLICY

Subject: The Use of the CDC Guidelines for Opioid Prescribing

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POLICY STATEMENT

While the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) applauds the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for its efforts to prevent the incidence and new cases of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose deaths, the SDSMA believes no entity should use the proposed Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) thresholds of the CDC as anything more than guidance.

The SDSMA further believes MME thresholds should not be used to completely prohibit the prescribing of, or the filling of prescriptions for, medications used in oncology care, palliative medicine, and addiction medicine care.

The SDSMA shall oppose:

1. The presenting of policies, procedures and/or directives to retail pharmacies that include a blanket proscription against filling prescriptions that exceed certain numerical thresholds without taking into account the diagnosis and previous response to treatment for a patient and any clinical nuances that would support such prescribing as falling within standards of good quality patient care;
2. The legislating of numerical limits on medication dosage, duration of therapy and/or numbers of pills/tablets, etc. prescribed; and
3. Efforts to subject physicians to professional discipline, loss of board certification, or clinical privileges simply for prescribing opioids at a quantitative level that exceeds the MME thresholds found in the CDC Guidelines.

The SDSMA shall encourage medical specialty societies and other organizations – to include the CDC, to develop improved guidance on the management of pain and management of potential withdrawal syndromes and other aspects of patient care for “legacy patients” who may have been treated for extended periods of time with high-dose opioid therapy for chronic non-cancer pain.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Policy Council, 5/31/2019; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 6/1/2019.