

Resolution

Resolution Title: Safe Pain Medicine Prescribing

1 Whereas, drug overdose was the leading cause of injury in 2012¹. In the US, drug overdoses kill
2 more people 25-64 years old than motor vehicle accidents¹.

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4 Whereas, in 2013, 35,663 (81.1%) of the 43,982 drug overdose deaths in the United States were
5 unintentional, 5,432 (12.4%) were of suicidal intent¹.

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7 Whereas, the drug overdose rate has more than doubled from 1999 through 2013¹.

8
9 Whereas, in 2011, drug misuse and abuse caused about 2.5 million emergency department visits.
10 Of these, more than 1.4 million ED visits were related to pharmaceuticals¹.

11
12 Whereas, opioid analgesics, like oxycodone, methadone or hydrocodone, were involved in about
13 3 of every 4 pharmaceutical overdose deaths².

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15 Whereas, In the United States, prescription opioid abuse costs were about \$55.7 billion in 2007³.

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17 Resolved, that ENA endorse the document titled “Safe Pain Medicine Prescribing⁷” created by
18 The Prescription Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Workgroup.

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20 Resolved, that ENA make the “Safe Pain Medicine Prescribing⁷” document available on its’
21 website as a resource for emergency nurses, advance practice nurses and emergency
22 departments.

23 **Background Information:**

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26 “Prescription drug abuse-related emergency department visits and treatment admissions have
27 risen significantly in recent years. Results from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and
28 Health indicate that about 15.3 million people aged 12 or older used prescription drugs non-
29 medically in the past year, and 6.5 million did so in the past month. Other negative outcomes that
30 may result from prescription drug misuse and abuse include overdose and death, falls and
31 fractures in older adults⁴”.

32
33 “States should ensure that providers follow evidence-based guidelines for the safe and effective
34 use of prescription painkillers. Swift regulatory action taken against health care providers acting
35 outside the limits of accepted medical practice can decrease provider behaviors that contribute to
36 prescription painkiller abuse, diversion, and overdose⁴”.

37
38 “Treating patients for pain in an emergency department presents unique challenges. Frequently
39 there is a limited ability to obtain adequate patient history and the primary care physician may
40 not be available. Drug seeking patients may take advantage of this in order to secure controlled
substances⁶”. “Although relieving pain and reducing suffering are primary emergency physician

Resolution

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41 responsibilities, there is a concurrent duty to limit the personal and societal harm that can result
42 from drug misuse and abuse⁵”

43 **Financial Considerations:**

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45 **References:**

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Resolution

Resolution Title: Safe Pain Medicine Prescribing

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72 **Supporters:**

73 California Emergency Nurses Association

74 Orange Coast Chapter Emergency Nurses Association

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