Continuing education (CE)

- AAOMS is committed to educating its membership about the potential for opioid abuse. This is evidenced by the education efforts AAOMS has provided to its membership. Data, included in the attached flier, suggest these efforts are working.
- AAOMS supports CE, but to be most effective, it should be managed at the state level because CE has traditionally been under the purview of the states.
- Any CE requirement should be appropriately proportionate to CE requirements on other topics and customized so it is relevant to each type of prescribing situation.
- Any federal requirement should either exempt prescribers in states with existing requirements or supersede those state requirements so prescribers are not subject to duplicative requirements.
- Provider specialty organizations (such as AAOMS) should be included as accepted practitioner training organizations for CE requirements.

Prescription drug monitoring programs

- AAOMS supports properly funded prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) that are updated in real time by dispensers and interoperative between states.
- Approved auxiliary personnel should be authorized to access the system on the practitioner’s behalf.

Prescribing initiatives

- Any effort by government entities to develop prescribing guidelines should recognize the unique care provided by OMSs by involving them in the development process and avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach as pain management needs vary patient to patient.
- Partially filling a prescription with the option to acquire the remaining amount only when necessary should be encouraged because this would lessen the risk of diversion of unused medications.
- Any dosage limitation restrictions should allow provider discretion because the management of pain severity varies by procedure and patient.
- Collaboration should occur with appropriate agencies to secure approval of innovative solutions for alternative pain management options, which would reduce the need for opioids. This would include pharmaceuticals, such as bupivacaine HCl, that extend the length of surgical site anesthesia.

For more information, contact Jeanne Tuerk, AAOMS Governmental Affairs Department: jtuerk@aaoms.org, 800-822-6637, ext. 4321