

Pain Policy Report Card

2018



Colorado

Yellow

Pain Policy in Colorado

Cancer patients, cancer survivors and other patients with serious illness often need pain treatment. State laws, policies and regulations can affect whether patients get the treatment they need, and the quality of that treatment. The American Cancer Society (ACS) and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), working with the University of Wisconsin, have graded state pain policies as of December 31, 2017. The following are results for our state.

Points

Policy Definitions & Prescription Limits

5 out of 6

Colorado does well in this category acknowledging that standard medical practice does include the proper treatment of pain when needed by patients. Additionally, prescription amounts and validity periods are not arbitrarily established under state statute or regulation. However, the definitions of addiction, physical dependence and tolerance are sometimes absent or ambiguous in some state policies.

Efforts to Assess & Improve Pain Treatment

5 out of 6

Colorado is lacking in this category and needs to enact policies that promote individual case characteristics that determine pain treatment and establish continuing education for practitioners.

Requirements for Treating Pain

5 out of 6

Colorado does well in this category regarding integrative patient care while prioritizing the assessment of benefits/risks before treatment and monitoring benefits/risks during treatment.

Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP)

3 out of 6

Colorado should consider several policy additions to make its state PMP more effective such as authorizing data sharing with other state PMPs and requiring that prescribers check the state PMP before initially prescribing an opioid for a patient.

Total points

18

Green – Matches model policy Yellow – Making progress toward model policy Red – Matches 50% or less of model policy