

Pain Policy Report Card

2018



Delaware

Yellow

Pain Policy in Delaware

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

6 out of 6

Delaware 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

6 out of 6

Delaware does very well in this category recognizing the need to reduce potential medication harms while maintaining patient care. Individual case characteristics dictate pain care and practitioner education is in place to improve pain treatment.

Requirements for Treating Pain

5 out of 6

Delaware does very well in this category regarding integrative, individualized patient care while prioritizing the assessment of benefits/risks before treatment and monitoring benefits/risks during treatment. Pro-actively engaging in shared treatment decision making with patients would enhance the overall pain policy grade in this category

Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP)

2 out of 6

Delaware needs to enact several policies to enhance the effectiveness of the state PMP including submission of dispensing data within 24 hours or one business day. Additionally, a strategy to systematically review program data to identify inappropriate medication use and requiring training for those who input and access the data is necessary.

Total points

19

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