

# Pain Policy Report Card

## 2018



# Georgia

Yellow

## Pain Policy in Georgia

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

Georgia 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.

#### Efforts to Assess & Improve Pain Treatment

6 out of 6

Georgia 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

Georgia 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

Georgia has a pro-active policy of requiring prescribing data be entered into the system within 24 hours but needs to require a check of the PMP before initially prescribing an opioid and needs a strategy to systematically review program data to identify inappropriate medication use. Additionally, authorizing data sharing with other state PMPs, especially neighboring states, is another policy that would enhance the state PMP's overall effectiveness.

Total points

19

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