

Pain Policy Report Card

2018



Maryland

Red

Pain Policy in Maryland

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

3 out of 6

Maryland is behind other states in this category because there is no policy acknowledgement that standard medical practice includes the proper treatment of pain when needed by patients. Additionally, policies around addiction, physical dependence and tolerance are ambiguous or absent.

Efforts to Assess & Improve Pain Treatment

5 out of 6

Maryland does better in this category than others but still needs to recognize in policy that individual case characteristics should ultimately determine pain treatment.

Requirements for Treating Pain

0 out of 6

Maryland is falling behind in this category related to integrative, individualized pain care, involving the patient in shared decision making, and assessing and monitoring benefits/risks before and during treatment.

Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP)

4 out of 6

Maryland does fairly well in this category but needs to require prescribers to check the PMP before initially prescribing opioids.

Total points

12

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