

# Pain Policy Report Card 2018



## New Jersey

Yellow

### Pain Policy in New Jersey

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

4 out of 6

New Jersey 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

4 out of 6

New Jersey does fairly well in this category but needs to enact policies that acknowledge individual case characteristics should determine proper pain treatment.

#### Requirements for Treating Pain

5 out of 6

New Jersey does well in this category but still needs to put policies in place that promote individualized pain care assessment/treatment.

#### Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP)

6 out of 6

New Jersey is a national leader in regard to this category requiring submission of dispensing data to the state PMP within 1 day and authorizing data sharing with other state PMPs.

#### Total points

19

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