

# Pain Policy Report Card 2018



## South Carolina

Yellow

### Pain Policy in South Carolina

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

South Carolina 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

South Carolina 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

6 out of 6

South Carolina does very well in this category regarding policies that encourage integrative, individualized patient care while prioritizing the assessment of benefits/risks before treatment and monitoring benefits/risks during treatment.

#### Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMP)

2 out of 6

South Carolina 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 pain medications for a patient.

Total points

16

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