

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT

Code

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Preamble

The American Academy of Pain Management recognizes the many facets and problems that pain patients experience. For this reason, the American Academy of Pain Management endorses and reaffirms the benefit of the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary commitment which professionals from a variety of disciplines can make to the field of pain management.

The conduct of the individual credentialed by the American Academy of Pain Management shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal regulations, and with codes of conduct as established by the credentialed individual's primary discipline. Individuals who are credentialed by the American Academy of Pain Management are committed to increasing their knowledge of the mechanisms of pain and its respondent behavior. Every effort will be made to safeguard the health and welfare of patients who seek the services of the practitioners credentialed by the American Academy of Pain Management.

Professional Conduct by Specialty

The credentialed individuals are obligated to maintain their skill competency such that it conforms to the standards of conduct both to the individual's community, practice and discipline. The treatment of pain and the implementation of a patient's plan require that the therapeutic effort be multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary. Credentialed individuals will conduct their professional behavior so that it facilitates the services of all team members for the maximum benefit of the patient.

Responsibility

The credentialed individual shall be responsible to determine that standards are applied evenly and fairly to all individuals who receive services. Individuals who are employed by an institution, agency or clinic have the responsibility to be alert for institutional pressure which may be counter to the best interest of the patient and shall make every effort to improve those conditions.

Credentialed individuals provide thorough documentation and timely feedback to members of the team, employers, carriers and other interested parties in order to assure coordinated, managed care. All reports will be objective and based upon an independent professional opinion within the credentialed individual's expertise. Credentialed individuals will provide only those services for which the individual is competent and qualified to perform. Credentialed individuals will refrain from providing services which are counter to the ethical standards of their discipline or which would be a violation of standards established by applicable regulatory boards governing service to pain patients.

Confidentiality

Credentialed practitioners are obligated to safeguard information obtained in the course of their involvement with their patients. Information acquired during the scope of practice may routinely be released only with the patient's written permission. In emergency situations when there exists a clear and imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of the patient or to others, or when such release is required by a court order or subpoena, a practitioner may release relevant medical information without the patient's written permission. Individuals who seek the services of



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credentialed practitioners shall be advised that in some jurisdictions insurance companies, managed care organizations and regulatory boards may have access to collected information, test results, and opinions. Patients have the privilege, to the extent that it is feasible and practical, and when there are no legal or clinical contraindications, to see their medical records at a mutually convenient time for the patient and the practitioner.

Education, Training and Competence

Credentialed practitioners shall maintain high standards of professional competence. They shall recognize the limits of their skills and the scope of their licensure. They shall offer services consistent with the standards of their profession.

Credentialed individuals have an obligation to accurately represent and disclose their training, education, and experience to the public. Credentialed practitioners shall engage in continuing education. This will minimally include 100 hours of relevant education in pain management and/or their primary discipline every four years. Credentialed practitioners recognize that the field of pain management is rapidly developing so shall be open to consider and evaluate new approaches and procedures for the management of pain. Credentialed practitioners shall refrain from procedures and treatments that may result in harm to a patient without first considering the alternatives to such therapies. Credentialed practitioners shall seek to employ treatments and services which may achieve the greatest benefit with the fewest associated risks whenever possible.

Credentialed practitioners shall obtain consultations with other providers when indicated, and inform the patient of the likely risks inherent to the proposed approaches, procedures or treatments.

Business Procedures

Credentialed practitioners will abide by all prevailing community standards. They will adhere to all local, state and federal laws regulating business practice. Competitive advertising must be honest, factual, and accurate. Such advertising must avoid making exaggerated claims.

Credentialed practitioners shall not enter into arrangements in which fees are split or exchanged, or where a conflict of interest or undue influence about services rendered would exist.

Credentialed practitioners shall engage in behavior that conforms to high standards of ethical, legal and moral behavior. Credentialed practitioners shall never engage in sexual contact with their patients.

Research

Credentialed practitioners may engage in research concerning the management of pain. In doing so, they shall have the safety of their subjects as a priority. Investigations shall be consistent with the traditions and practices of the credentialed practitioner's discipline. Credit shall be given to all individuals who participate in a research study, but only those who actually participated in the design, study implementation, data analysis of the outcome or the manuscript preparation shall be listed as authors.

