

VALLEY PAIN MANAGEMENT
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PILLS FOR BILLS

Dear Editor,

One of the comments overheard by my staff as to why a patient's urine drug screen is negative for the meds I Rx for their medical condition is that they sometimes use the Opioids as a bartering tool.

After hearing this, I was shocked and in disbelief. Here I was treating a known medical condition that is painful yet these patients (most on Medicaid or SSI) would rather be in pain and pay with a commodity known as an Opioid.

I am sure that like many of you, you would never think of doing this yet society is definitely at a major crossroad.

Add to this that most if not all the Opioids on the West Virginia and Ohio Medicaid list of "preferred" drugs have no abuse deterrence technology built in so they can easily be used for purposes outside of what they were prescribed for.

The fact that we have State and Federal government programs which "disable" men and women in this country is a major factor in this epidemic. Once "branded" as disabled, they are told by our government that they cannot work and make an income thereby essentially castrating them. Those who risk work, usually work "under the table".

If caught, they risk losing their benefits. Those who do not work for fear of losing their benefits essentially are shut in, creating a subclass of American Citizens who are unable to contribute to the good of this great country.

I do not know why this is happening but I sincerely hope that we legislate better policies towards those on Medicaid and SSI in which they are given a chance to work and feel fulfilled instead of being "wards of the state" waiting for their monthly check.

Many of the patients I have would like to try to work as the income they receive from Medicaid and SSI is truly not enough to survive, let alone live day to day.

We must empower our citizens to be more fulfilled with attempting to work and contribute to our society. Obviously, some of these citizens are unable to work or contribute financially which is fine but for those that can, we need to help them, not keep them in financial slavery waiting for the master to pay them monthly.

Sincerely



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