

To whom it may concern,

I am a 64 yom chronic pain patient with severe left hip pain, left buttock pain, and lower back pain. I have had a total left hip replacement in 2007, an L4-L5 total disk replacement, and lastly a left piriformis muscle removal with sciatic nerve decompression. I have been on a high dose opioid and ibuprofen regimen since 2006. All the doctors told me they could help me. I have also had lower back ablation of the nerves, physical therapy, spinal injections, hip injections, etc etc etc.

The medical community has failed me. I was stable on my opioid regimen for over 6 years. No tolerance, no cheating, no hyperalgesia and a pretty good quality of life. Last year my primary MD up and told me to go to a pain specialist. He would no longer provide me with opioid prescriptions. The first thing the pain doctor did was decrease my opioids. Of course I am in much more pain now. Due to my decreased level of activity my blood sugar levels have spiked. I used to be able to walk up to 3 miles every other day. Now I can't go walking. I may have to start taking insulin.

As of yesterday, my pain doctor and his group practice have decided to follow your ill-conceived, obtuse, draconian opioid guidelines of 90mg ME's/day. They are going to wean ALL of their patients, except cancer patients, to 90mg ME's/day. This will cause me and hundreds of other patients in their practice unneeded suffering and pain.

He told me all the pain management doctors in Las Vegas and Henderson, NV are going to do this. They are scared shitless that the DEA will get them. That their malpractice insurance will skyrocket. And that they will be sued by patients or patient's family members for not following the CDC guidelines. So much for your piss poor rhetoric about how these are "just guidelines and mostly meant for primary care doctors".

All of you at the CDC and like minded groups, individuals, etc are causing hundreds of thousands if not millions of people to suffer in pain needlessly.

I believe in karma. Maybe you, your spouse, your children, grandchildren, mother, father, sister, brother, and all family members will get some sort of intractable pain disorder unresponsive to all your guidelines, just like me. Then you will see what it's like to go to a doctor, be told you can't have an opioid because you'll become an addict. And then he tells you to "just suck it up and take it like a man" Maybe one of you will be so under treated, you'll be like the 52 year old vet who blew his brains out

at the VA when they decreased/took away his opioids. What is the suicide rate going to do. Oh that's right. If he/she is full of opioids it will be an overdose not a suicide.

I don't know what the future holds for me. But if the pain gets so bad that I commit suicide, I will glue a suicide note to my chest so I won't be counted as an overdose. I will die because I can no longer stand the pain.

Sincerely and angrily yours,

Richard Martin, RPh (retired due to disability)