

MASSACHUSETTS PAIN INITIATIVE

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If you have events to share or would like more information about MassPI, please visit MassPI website at <http://www.masspaininitiative.org> or contact Amy Goldstein at the New England Division of the American Cancer Society, (508) 270-4653, amy.goldstein@cancer.org.

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SAVE THE DATES!

MassPI's 9th General Meeting on April 12, 2006

12-4pm, Beyond Standards and Guidelines: Finding the Balance in Pain Management. Hampton Inn, Natick, MA. To register contact Amy Goldstein at amy.Goldstein@cancer.org or 508-270-4563.

Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference on April 5, 2006

"Pain Management at the End of Life: Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Practice" 1:30-4pm. Site locations will be announced soon via www.hospicefoundation.org.

News & Important Highlights

Drug Enforcement Agency Role in Drug Approval Rescinded

On November 4, 2006, a U.S. House-Senate conference committee dropped a controversial provision that gave the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authority to review, and potentially block, the sale of all new prescription opioids. The legislation, promoted by Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA) and attached to a multi-department appropriations bill, passed last year with little notice. This year, however, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), pharmaceutical manufacturers, doctors who treat people with pain and many others objected to renewing it, and the provision was stripped from the bill. Opponents of the bill believed that the provision was an unwarranted intrusion by a law enforcement agency into the FDA's drug-review system. Pain specialists also said that DEA reviews could jeopardize development of new drugs needed by people with chronic pain. The Congressional Appropriations Conference Committee decided to remove language from the proposed appropriations bill that would have allowed the DEA to force delays or veto newly approved FDA pain medicines from reaching the market. The troublesome amendment was removed from the final bill. The American Pain Foundation along with the American Academy of Pain Medicine and others worked to inform the public and the Conferees about the potential harm to people with pain if this amendment were enacted.

Lance Armstrong Foundation Teams with AACPI

The Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) announced the formation of a cooperative agreement with the American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives (AACPI) to improve cancer pain management nationwide and provide infrastructure, financial and programmatic support to the individual State Pain Initiatives that make up the AACPI network. The national office of the AACPI will implement programs to carry out the objectives of the partnership with the LAF. Read the news release on the AACPI's website at www.aacpi.wisc.edu

MassPI Endorses H.R. 1020, the National Pain Care Policy Act

The American Pain Foundation has circulated an important document called, "H.R.1020, National Pain Care Policy Act Consensus Statement" to numerous organizations asking for their written endorsement of

the document. The Consensus Statement is showing the support of the pain care community and other organizations which advocate for the rights of patients to legislators at the Congressional Hearing on Pain in America. This hearing has been promised by Nathan Deal, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, to occur early in 2006. For a list of current signers, see <http://www.painfoundation.org/page.asp?file=Advocacy/HR1020Signers.htm>

FDA Approves New Pain Device

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a patient-activated device to administer medication for hard-to-treat chronic pain. The device, called the Personal Therapy Manager, is used with Medtronic's SynchroMed drug pumps. The PTM is a hand-held device about the size of a cell phone. It is used by pressing a button which delivers the physician-prescribed dose of medication when the patient needs it. It ensures safe delivery of the medication; its software is pre-programmed to verify that enough time has elapsed between the patient-activated doses. Patients do not have the ability to increase any dosage of medication. The PTM includes a patient diary to record information such as delivery times and self pain ratings that physicians use to adjust dosages. It is recommended for people with difficult-to-treat chronic pain, including pain associated with cancer or cancer treatment. For more information, please visit: Pain Center Online

<http://pain.healthcentersonline.com/newsstories/patientactivatedpaindevicewinsok.cfm>

Updated Pain Management Pocket Tool Available

MassPI's Pain Management Pocket Tool is excellent for all healthcare professionals. The tool includes principles of pain management, management of breakthrough pain, switching from one opioid to another, opioid equianalgesic chart, adjuvant analgesic drugs, commonly used non-opioid analgesics, and management of opioid side effects. You may request 5 tools for your facility, at no charge. For additional tools, cost is \$1 a tool, from 1-100. For quantities above 100, cost is 50 cents a tool (i.e. 150 tools cost \$125). An order form and a copy of the pocket tool is located on MassPI website at

<http://www.masspaininitiative.org/pros.htm#pain>

Pharmacy Theft is Significant Source of Abused Pain Medications

Researchers with the Pain and Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin report that every year thousands of armed robberies and thefts from pharmacies, manufacturers and distributors result in millions of dosages of opioid pain medications being diverted into the illicit market. Data from 22 states show that in 2003 approximately 5.8 million dosages of opioid pain medications were diverted, including hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, methadone, meperidine, hydromorphone and fentanyl. Read more about this issue at: <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/05jpsm/05jpsm.pdf>

Results published of study on fentanyl patch in pediatrics

A new study says using a transdermal patch to deliver the opioid fentanyl is an effective way to control pain in children. Results from an international study published in the December 15, 2005 issue of *CANCER* (www.interscience.wiley.com/cancer-newsroom), a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society, indicate that the fentanyl patch is safe for children aged 2 to 16 years.

Article: "Transdermal Fentanyl in the Management of Children with Chronic Severe Pain: Results from an International Study," Julia C. Finkel, Allen Finley, Christine Greco, Steve J. Weisman, Lonnie Zeltzer, *CANCER*; Published Online: November 14, 2005 (DOI: 10.1002/cncr.21497); Print Issue Date: December 15, 2005.

Avinza (morphine sulfate extended-release capsules)

Ligand Pharmaceuticals Inc. and FDA notified healthcare professionals of revisions to BOXED WARNING, WARNINGS, PRECAUTIONS, CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION sections of the prescribing information to highlight and strengthen the warning that patients should not consume alcohol while taking Avinza. Additionally, patients must not use prescription or non-prescription medications containing alcohol while on Avinza therapy.

MassHealth Issues

Please email Amy (amy.Goldstein@cancer.org) with any of your professional or personal concerns about MassHealth prior authorization requirements for pain medications for Medicaid patients. MassPI will continue to gather information from membership in order to analyze how to focus our efforts.

Power Over Pain (POP) Update

Power Over Pain (POP), MassPI's grassroots public awareness program in Massachusetts, has reached 1000 people, both public and professionals. The goal of this program is to educate healthcare professionals and communities in Massachusetts to understand and advocate for good pain management. You can learn more about POP by visiting <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/power.htm>. If you would like to become a trained POP volunteer or want more information, please contact Amy Goldstein, MassPI Coordinator at amy.Goldstein@cancer.org or 508-270-4653. Trainings for presenters last about 1.5 hours and are done around the state.

Next training for POP presenters: TBA

We are looking for more presenters to become trained as we have a big agenda for the year!

Recent/Upcoming POP sessions:

Eagle House Senior Center	Brockton Council on Aging
Charlton Council on Aging	Holden Council on Aging
Holyoke Jewish Senior Center	MA College of Pharmacy – multidisciplinary providers

MassPI Working Council Updates

Public Awareness Council, Chair Hannah Lyons, RN, MSN, AOCN

The Council continues to focus their Power Over Pain activities in the elderly population. Twenty-six POP's have occurred at Councils on Aging (COA) and four more are scheduled in the next year. In September, MassPI led a POP workshop at the Council on Aging's Fall Conference in Sturbridge. Also MassPI conducted a training for new POP presenters at Hallmark Health System in Medford, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Twenty-seven new presenters were trained, totaling more than 60 presenters.

Professional Education Council, Chair Anne Marie Kelly, BSN, RN C

The Professional Education Council is focused on expanding outreach of Power Over Pain for healthcare professionals. In fall 2005, the council reconnected with the 38 Nursing Programs in Massachusetts to offer free education to faculty and students. To date, POP presentations were given to three nursing programs, which were extremely well received. Professional Education Council members continue to meet by phone and email to strategically plan for future educational opportunities. To date, almost 7500 pocket tools have been distributed statewide and nationally.

Legislative Issues & Access To Care Council, Chair Srdjan Nedeljkovic, MD

MassPI continues communication with legislators and membership in response to issues surrounding opioids for pain management. The Council is in charge of planning MassPI's April meeting and will be doing this around the topic of access and policy issues with pain management. The council continues to explore any barriers that might impede pain management and strategize responses to these issues.

MassPI Website, Chair Tom Quinn, RN, MSN

MassPI is looking for volunteers to help with the website <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/> in order to make it useful for healthcare professionals and the members of all our communities. We need help with writing and editing pertinent content articles as well as technical support for modifying and updating website. You can contact me at tquinn1@partners.org.

Resources, Continuing Education, and Training

American Nurses Credentialing Center Announces New Certification for Pain Management Nurses

ANCC is introducing this important nursing certification in collaboration with the American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN), the nation's leading organization for nurses committed to improving the way pain is managed. The certification is available to licensed, registered nurses, whose clinical practice includes work with diverse patient populations experiencing pain. To download a pdf version of ANCC's Pain Management Certification for Registered Nurses, please visit <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/cert/PDFs/PainMgmtCat.pdf>

Congratulations to all of our members who have recently passed this exam! Please let us know who you are!

American Cancer Society Revises Guide to Cancer Pain Control

The American Cancer Society's "Guide to Pain Control, Revised Edition", provides persons with cancer pain step-by-step ways to describe their pain and communicate pain-relief needs to their health care providers. The guide can help people with cancer partner with their health care teams to create effective pain-relief plans tailored to their unique situations. For more information visit http://www.cancer.org/docroot/PUB/content/PUB_1_1_American_Cancer_Societys_Guide_to_Pain_Control_Revised_Edition.asp

Online Study Announcement for Cancer Patients on Opioids with Constipation

GSK is currently recruiting male and female cancer patients or cancer survivors on prescription pain medication to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication. If a person has cancer, is a cancer survivor, or is at least 18 years old and suffers from constipation due to prescription pain medication, they may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication for treatment of constipation. All study related clinic visits, medical evaluations and study medications will be provided at no cost to patients. For information, call the GSK Patient Recruitment Call Center at 888-572-2180 from Monday through Friday, 8AM-8PM EST.

Making Sense of Pain Relief

"Making Sense of Pain Relief" is an educational campaign designed to help clarify new, and sometimes confusing, information about pain relief. The campaign is a collaborative effort by the American Chronic Pain Association, American Pain Foundation and National Pain Foundation with support from Pfizer, Inc. <http://www.painsense.org/home/default.asp>

Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics

The Tufts University School of Medicine Master of Science in Pain Research, Education and Policy has introduced a new Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics. The goal of the program is to provide targeted postgraduate education for healthcare professionals in the evolving field of pain. Join Master's program students in a dynamic and richly rewarding educational experience that fosters intellectual development. Certificate program students choose a specialty and enroll in one of three tracks: Research, Education, or Policy. Students will complete a total of 20 credit hours of graduate-level courses to earn the Certificate of Advanced Study in Pain Topics. For more information, visit www.tufts.edu/med/prep or contact Jeanne Connolly at jeanne.connolly@tufts.edu or by phone 617-636-3631.

For a list of other resources and links, please visit: <http://www.masspaininitiative.org/links.htm>

Upcoming Events Calendar 2006

January 19, 2006

MassPI subgroup meeting in Western Mass. 12:30-3:30, Dakin 2 conference room, Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Contact amy.goldstein@cancer.org or 508-652-4360.

February 23, 2006

22nd Annual meeting of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, San Diego, CA, <http://www.painmed.org/>

March 14, 2006

MA Compassionate Care Coalition Annual Meeting, 8:30-12pm, Topic and speaker TBA, Location: Mass Medical Society, Waltham, MA, Contact Arlene Lowney alowney@comcast.net, or visit massccc.org to register

March 20 and 22, 2006

Annual 2-day Pain Relief Champions course. Massachusetts General Hospital. Contact Tom Quinn at 617-726-0746. tquinn1@partners.org. <http://www.massgeneral.org/painrelief/>

March 31-April 2, 2006

Annual Meeting of the American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN), Lake Buena Vista, FL <http://www.aspmn.org/html/AnnualMtg.htm>

April 5, 2006

Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference, 1:30-4pm, Pain Management at the End of Life: Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Practice. To find conference sites in your area, visit <http://www.hospicefoundation.org>

April 12, 2006

MassPI's General Meeting. Beyond Standards and Guidelines: Finding the Balance in Pain Management, 12:30-4, Hampton Inn, Natick, MA, Contact Amy Goldstein amy.goldstein@cancer.org

May 4-7, 2006

Oncology Nurses Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA <http://www.ons.org/nursing/events/Congress.shtml>

June 15-17, 2006

American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives 17th Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ <http://www.aacpi.wisc.edu>. Please email amy.goldstein@cancer.org if you're interested in attending. May be some funding available to offset costs.

MassPI Steering Council Members:

Don Freeman
Hallie Greenberg, MS-PREP, RN
Lewis Hays, MD
Jeanne Connolly-Horrigan, MS
Jennifer Cruickshank
Edna Smith, RN, MEd

Mary Whalen, RN, BA, MSN
Paul Ross Ed.D, M.Ed., S.B.Ed
Jane Gannon, BS, MS
Kathy Keough, MS
Gayle Peterson, RN
Amy Goldstein, MSW
Carol Curtiss, RN, MSN, Consulting Chair