

THE MASSACHUSETTS PAIN INITIATIVE: HELPING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

MASSPI MISSION STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Pain Initiative (MassPI) is a state-wide, independent non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to alleviating needless suffering from persistent and acute pain and to improving the quality of life for all people affected by pain.

WHO ARE WE?

MassPI is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Massachusetts. Our members include healthcare professionals from many disciplines and non-clinician community members who are interested in more effective pain management.

MassPI's primary focus is on pain education for healthcare professionals and state pain policy. Specifically, MassPI works to. . .

- ◆ Share accurate pain management information.
- ◆ Educate doctors, nurses and other health care providers about state of the art pain management.
- ◆ Influence public policy related to ensuring and improving pain care.

MassPI is unable to...

- ◆ Advise, treat or provide care for individuals with pain

WHY IS PAIN A PROBLEM?

Pain is the number one reason people seek health care in the United States and under-treatment is a major public health problem. An estimated 50 million Americans suffer with chronic pain lasting months or years. Within that group, an estimated 19.6 million U.S. adults have high-impact chronic pain.

Pain is a costly health care expense. Older estimates were that pain costs approximately \$600 billion every year in direct health care expenses, lost wages, and productivity. Given the increase in health care costs, this is likely considerably higher in current dollars.

A survey conducted by MassPI and reported in the *Boston Globe* found that one in four adults in Massachusetts suffers from serious, persistent pain that interferes with their daily life and ability to work. The study also found that most of these pain sufferers had difficulty finding effective care for their pain.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

MassPI offers a pain management education program aimed at health care providers each fall. These programs feature pain expert speakers representing a wide variety of pain-related specialties from Massachusetts, the New England region, as well as special national and internationally known pain experts. MassPI's programs offer continuing education credits for various health care professionals based on the topic of the specific education program.



COMMUNITY PAIN EDUCATION

MassPI professionals are available to consult with health care and community groups that are interested in pain education for their organization. For questions, please contact MassPI at info@MassPainInitiative.org.

The Pain Management Pocket Tool is a MassPI resource for healthcare professionals. This 6.75" X 3" laminated tri-fold card includes the most pertinent information about pain management, assessment, and treatment. View or download a free copy of the Pain Management Pocket Tool at www.MassPainInitiative.org and select the Pain Management Pocket Tool link on the right. Large quantities of laminated Pocket Tools may be purchased by completing the order form on the website.

WORKING TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE

MassPI works with other organizations dedicated to pain relief. Medical advances in pain relief and increasing awareness of the treatments that are already available can make an immediate difference in people's quality of life. Working together, MassPI members, Massachusetts residents, and others can help people living with pain to lead more comfortable and productive lives.

BECOMING A MEMBER

Membership is free. Both individuals and organizations can become MassPI members. By becoming a member, you will receive:

- ◆ Advanced notification of upcoming pain education conferences
- ◆ E-mail newsletters of major news in pain management
- ◆ Information about pain-related events
- ◆ Rewarding volunteer opportunities
- ◆ Opportunity to make a difference in important pain management issues

JOIN MASSPI

For additional membership information, go to the MassPI web site at www.MassPainInitiative.org and follow the "About MassPI" link for Volunteer Opportunities and Councils information.

MASSPI VOLUNTEERS

There are many ways to make a difference:

- ◆ Join MassPI public awareness initiatives
- ◆ Plan professional education programs
- ◆ Shape policy to advance pain relief
- ◆ Contribute to the MassPI website
- ◆ Work on communications efforts
- ◆ Assist with administrative support



HOW TO REACH MASSPI

To learn more about MassPI and find information on a wide range of pain-related subjects:

- ◆ Visit the MassPI website at: www.MassPainInitiative.org
- ◆ Facebook: *MassPainInitiative*
- ◆ Twitter: *@Mass_PI*
- ◆ Email us at info@MassPainInitiative.org

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