RESOLUTION

Resolution: 306C.13

SUBJECT: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

SUBMITTED BY: Georgia Medical Society

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee C

Whereas, prescription drug abuse and inadequately treated pain are public health crises affecting all Americans; and

Whereas, one out of three Americans lives with chronic pain, with an estimated 3.3 million of them living in Georgia; and

Whereas, many Georgians with chronic pain benefit from the proper use of opioid pain relievers, but find significant barriers to receiving adequate pain care, often consulting multiple health care providers and living with their pain for years before it is properly diagnosed and managed; and

Whereas, in 2010, more than 12 million Americans admitted misusing prescription pain relievers in the previous year; and

Whereas, nearly 600 Georgians died of overdoses involving prescription drugs in 2012, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas, studies in other states have demonstrated an increased risk of overdose death among people who obtain prescriptions for controlled substances from multiple prescribers and multiple pharmacies; and

Whereas, the purpose of Georgia’s prescription drug monitoring program is: to assist in reducing the misuse, abuse, and diversion of controlled substances; to encourage quality health care by promoting the proper use of medications to treat pain and terminal illness; and to reduce duplicative prescribing and overprescribing of controlled substances; and

Whereas, a known challenge for prescribers and dispensers in using prescription drug monitoring programs is their limited time, with many reporting that it is difficult for them to input, receive, and interpret prescription monitoring program query data within the time constraints of their busy medical practices; and

Whereas, many states have seen an increased use of their prescription drug monitoring programs as a result of authorizing other qualified clinic personnel to obtain prescription drug monitoring program reports for use by prescribers and dispensers; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) recommends that the Georgia Legislature amend OCGA § 16-13-60 to include language that permits authorized prescribers and dispensers to designate delegates to obtain prescription drug monitoring program reports on their behalf; that such delegates must be licensed, registered, or certified by a state regulatory or administrative agency; and that, for each delegate, the authorized prescriber or dispenser be held responsible for their delegates’ use of the system.

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