

McDowell, Robert

From: linchurch <linchurch@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 6:09 PM
To: Henderson, Meredith
Subject: [External] Opioid Rx Rules

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Dear Ms. Henderson,

As a practicing physician in Raleigh for over fifty years may I offer my comments:

1. I have no problem w/ the proposed rules, but they will not come close to dealing w/ the problem, the illegal fentanyl killer from China, Mexico and Columbia. Over 50% of deaths are due to illegally imported fentanyl, often through the US Postal Service.
2. The Federal Government (Congress and the Administration) are not allocating nearly enough resources to deal with the three-headed snake noted above.
3. Yes, there are a small number of licensed physicians who are unethically abusing their DEA prescribing privileges, but the vast number of physicians seriously consider the adverse consequences of prescribing narcotics and do so responsibly. Pointing the finger at ethical physician and ethical pharmaceutical providers will do little but harm suffering patients trying to deal with trauma or post-surgery pain.
4. The vast number of narcotic prescriptions (why do we call them "opioids"?) are rational and necessary in caring for patients with acute and chronic pain.

Sincerely,

C. Franklin Church, MD, FAAFP
Past President, NC Academy of Family Physicians

References by request are available