

July 17, 2018

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Regarding: Assembly Bill 474

Background Information

Definition of an **addict**: a person who abuses pain medication/prescriptions

**Addiction**: continuous abuse

**Dependency**: is what the patient goes through

**70/30 Rule**: 30% abuse their prescriptions mainly due to mainly short term use medication, BUT 70% DO NOT abuse their medications

I agree with the bill except for the following:

**1) No mention no protection for existing long term patients**

- a. Only stresses new patients
- b. Reinventing the wheel. Making patient go through steps they have already gone through
- c. 365 day limit on medications (prescribe 365)

Possible Solutions

- Separate grouping for this category
- Grandfather these patients

**2) 90 MilliEquivalent (MEQ) limitation**

- a. Good for start up patients
- b. NOT good for existing patients with extended release medications
- c. Hundreds of patients will go into withdrawal, forced into emergency rooms or onto the streets for drugs (as in Utah) or leave the state
- d. No quality of life
- e. Like taking away a persons heart medication or insulin
- f. No about curing everyone. Some people will always have pain (chronic)

Possible Solutions

- Expand the MEQ to 250 for existing patient with chronic pain
- Put the patient in the Pain Doc's care only

**3) Insurance company and pharmacy recommendation/agreement to pay for their 'drug of the month' (practicing without a license nor medical liability)**

- a. Cost 'parity'
- b. The United Health story
  - i. Nevada Division of Insurance – for complaints
  - ii. Not subject to state insurance laws or regulations
  - iii. Matter dropped!!

(see back)

Possible Solution

- Push insurance companies and drug companies to agree on costs for pain medications, distinguish between short acting and long acting medications

I can provide further information and/or be available with my pain specialist physician Dr Alexander Imas MD. Dr Imas can be contacted via phone (702) 982-7100 or email: [aimas@dynamicpainrehab.com](mailto:aimas@dynamicpainrehab.com)

I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Respectfully,

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