



December 28, 2017

To: Robert Yakely, MD, President
Colorado Medical Society

From: Robert Valuck, PhD, RPh, FNAP
Director, Colorado Coalition for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention (Consortium)

Re: Medical professional convening: Future strategic course, reversing the opioid crisis

On behalf of the Consortium's Coordinating Committee, we wish to convey our appreciation for the continuing commitment of the CMS board of directors and your Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse to our efforts. While we are making steady progress to reverse the opioid crisis, there is much work to be done. It is in this regard that we are making a special request of CMS.

By way of background that you know well, the Consortium, established by Governor Hickenlooper, is a coordinated, statewide, interuniversity/interagency network that connects and involves all interested stakeholders facilitated by the CU School of Pharmacy. The Consortium's mission is to reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse by developing policies, programs and partnerships with the many agencies, organizations, and community coalitions to address what is now a major public health crisis in Colorado. The role of physicians in this effort has been and will continue to be vital.

The Consortium's Coordinating Committee has established objectives for 2018, one of which is to convene medical professionals/organizations to set a future, coordinated strategic course on guideline development and other activities and programs. As we reviewed the data from the 2017 CMS opioid crisis survey, the conclusions of Kupersmit Research, and reflected on the commitment of CMS and the many specialty and component medical societies to reversing the crisis, we invite CMS to coordinate the medical profession's convening as described in the objective above. CMS is ideally positioned to coordinate this project based on the organization's past leadership role and Kupersmit Research conclusions demonstrating, among others, that CMS members have a clear understanding that prescription drug abuse is a very serious public health crisis and that responsibility for addressing the crisis is theirs.

The Coordinating Committee's vision for the convening is a grassroots driven facilitation that generates the perspective, ideas and an ultimate consensus from practicing physicians across multiple specialties with broad geographic representation on a future course for medical professions. The Consortium will be pleased to work with CMS on grant funding and other assistance on this project.

The Consortium's Coordinating Committee would be most grateful if CMS would favorably consider this invitation. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to talking with you soon.

Copies to: John Hughes, MD, Chairman
CMS Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse
Coordinating Committee, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Donald Stader, III, MD, CMS Liaison to the Colorado Legislative Interim Study on Opioid and Other Substance Abuse Disorders
Alfred Gilchrist, CEO, CMS
Susan Koontz, JD, CMS General Counsel and Director of Government Relations