

**Prescription Drug Abuse: (Action)**  
**Request from Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**

**What the board will be voting on:** A reply to a request of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention (attached)

**What the Consortium is asking CMS to do:** To lead the Consortium's 2018 "objective to convene medical professionals/organizations to set a future, coordinated strategic course on guideline development and other activities and programs to reverse the opioid crisis."

**Why the Consortium made this request:** The Consortium's Coordinating Committee reviewed data from the 2017 CMS opioid crisis survey, the conclusions of Kupersmit Research, and reflected on the past commitment of CMS and the many specialty and component medical societies to reversing the opioid crisis, and concluded that CMS is ideally positioned to coordinate this convening.

**The Consortium's Coordinating Committee's vision for the convening:** 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.

**How the Consortium will help CMS with the convening:** The Consortium will be pleased to work with CMS on grant funding and other assistance on this project.

**Why this request is important to CMS and patients:** (1) The Colorado Consortium is the Governor's effort to reverse the opioid crisis in Colorado; (2) The Consortium has tremendous standing with the General Assembly, stakeholders and the media; (3) The request demonstrates confidence in CMS due to the work of the CMS Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse; (4) Puts the medical profession in position to direct future work of the Consortium relating to activities and programs of the profession that will be beneficial to patients; (5) Signals the General Assembly "confidence and trust" in CMS; that it remains committed to reversing the crisis.

The Consortium's request is consistent with the current 2018 project plan of the Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse approved by the board on September 15, 2017 as follows:

Goal: Ensure access to compassionate, evidence-based care for patients who suffer from acute and chronic pain while reducing the potential for medically inappropriate use and diversion of prescribed medications, eliminate abuse of opioids and opioid addiction, and help patients who are addicted to opioid drugs

Objective: Aggressively advocate for CMS opioid-related policies consistent with priorities of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Strategies:

1. **Continue to collaborate with and work through the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**
2. Provide subject matter expertise to the General Assembly's Opioid and Other Substance Abuse Disorders Interim Study Committee
3. Advocate in the 2018 General Assembly for recommendations consistent with CMS policy developed by the General Assembly's Opioid and Other Substance Abuse Disorders Interim Study Committee
4. Direct the Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse to use its discretion to focus CMS efforts in areas deemed most productive in achieving the long-term goal of CMS