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Voices for Non-Opioid Choices Applauds Federal Task Force for New Report Demanding Increased Access to Non-Opioid Approaches to Pain Management

HHS-Led Effort Recommends Policy Changes to Make Such Approaches More Accessible

WASHINGTON, DC, June 6, 2019– Last week, the Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force released its final report that included numerous recommendations to increase provider and patient access to non-opioid approaches to acute pain management. The Task Force, which was led by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and created as a result of the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) convened the nation’s leading experts in pain management and provided recommendations to optimize pain care in the United States.

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices (*Voices*), a nonpartisan coalition focused on increasing access to opioid alternatives and removing the federal policy barriers that inhibit patient access to these needed, safe, and effective treatment approaches, commends the Task Force for its work compiling this report. *Voices* looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with the Task Force to support its efforts to put the recommendations into action.

“This report provides a roadmap for providers in how to change the status quo for treating acute pain and highlights ways to increase patient choice in their care,” said Chris Fox, Executive Director of *Voices*. “The report is quite clear – we can and should be doing more to utilize multimodal, non-opioid approaches to pain management. At *Voices*, we look forward to working together with trusted stakeholders, policymakers, and others to have these recommendations implemented, which would have a tremendous impact on addressing our nation’s opioid epidemic.”

The final report acknowledges the benefits of non-opioid therapies to pain management, including utilizing non-opioids before prescribing opioids to patients. The report also provides substantial recommendations to increase patient and provider access to these approaches, including through:

- Robust support to increase utilization of “procedure-specific multimodal regimens” for pain management – including both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic approaches;
- Facilitating preoperative consultations between patients and providers to develop individualized pain management plans;
- Utilization of non-opioid approaches as “first line” therapies; and
- Increasing patient access to the wide array of other highly trained, specialized health professionals in helping patients to manage their pain.

To learn more about *Voices* or for a full list of its members, please visit its website at www.nonopioidchoices.org.

About Voices for Non-Opioid Choices

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices is a nonpartisan coalition dedicated to preventing opioid addiction before it starts by increasing patient access to non-opioid therapies and approaches to manage acute pain. To learn more visit www.nonopioidchoices.org or follow [@nonopioidchoice](https://twitter.com/nonopioidchoice) on Twitter.

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