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**Federal Government Takes Historic Step Forward to Address Opioid Epidemic,
Increase Access to Non-Opioids Starting in 2025**

Proposed Rule details implementation of the Non-Opioid Prevent Addiction in the Nation (“NOPAIN”) Act

Washington, DC (July 10, 2024) – This morning, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) outlined [guidance](#) formally implementing the NOPAIN Act, which was enacted into law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. The guidance was issued as part of an annual rulemaking process for the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems. The rule details which non-opioid drugs and devices will be, as of January 1, 2025, available for separate payment under the NOPAIN Act.

“The latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that nearly 80,000 Americans died last year from an opioid-related drug overdose,” said Chris Fox, Executive Director of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices. “Despite well-intentioned and successful efforts of prescribers in minimizing unnecessary patient exposure to prescription opioids, more needs to be done to combat opioid addiction in our country. The NOPAIN Act was a piece of federal legislation aimed to prevent opioid addiction, where possible, by minimizing unnecessary exposure to prescription opioids.”

According to the guidance issued this morning and in accordance with the NOPAIN Act, CMS proposes to provide separate payment for the use of qualifying non-opioid drugs and devices starting in 2025. In the past, providing separate payment for such drugs and devices is demonstrated to significantly increase use of such products.

“When it comes to treating pain in this country, we are asking our healthcare providers to do more with less,” continued Chris Fox. “This guidance makes clear our nation’s intent to incentivize the use of non-addictive forms of pain management where practicable. It is my hope and expectation that this legislation and the guidance released this morning will significantly increase patient access to non-opioid therapies – both that are currently available and for those to come.”

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 and provider access to non-opioid therapies and approaches to manage acute pain. For more information, visit www.nonopioidchoices.org.

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