

From: Englander, David [David.Englander@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 9:04 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Cimaglio, Barbara
CC: Green, Geoff
Subject: RE: Julian Hoffman
Attachments: CDC Guidelines Opioid Prescribing Ltr1.16.pdf

Sue:

Commissioner Chen transmitted the attached comments on the proposed guidelines to the CDC yesterday.

Let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Best,
David

David Englander
Senior Policy and Legal Advisor
Vermont Department of Health
Phone: 802.863.7282
Cell: 802.578.1652

Please note: All State of Vermont email addresses have changed to @vermont.gov
My email address is now david.english@vermont.gov

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 1:24 AM
To: Cimaglio, Barbara
Cc: Green, Geoff; Englander, David
Subject: RE: Julian Hoffman

Thank you! David?

From: Cimaglio, Barbara [<mailto:Barbara.Cimaglio@vermont.gov>]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 10:15 PM
To: Allen, Susan <Susan.Allen@vermont.gov>
Cc: Green, Geoff <Geoff.Green@vermont.gov>; Englander, David <David.Englander@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Julian Hoffman

Sue,
CDC is taking comments on the guidelines. David Englander is the point person for VDH.

Barbara

Barbara Cimaglio
Deputy Commissioner
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
802-951-1258
802-578-1435 (c)

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 4:54 PM
To: Cimaglio, Barbara
Cc: Green, Geoff
Subject: FW: Julian Hoffman

Not sure we "sign off" on CDC guidelines, so I assume he means does Gov approve of them? Do you know if we do? Or the best way to respond to this ...
Thanks!

Sue

From: Green, Geoff
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Allen, Susan <Susan.Allen@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: Julian Hoffman

?

From: Campbell, Patrick
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Green, Geoff <Geoff.Green@vermont.gov>
Subject: Julian Hoffman

Julian Hoffman
202-974-2472
Julian.Hoffman@nsc.org

Julian is with the National Safety Council and he wanted to know if the Governor would be signing off on the CDC Opioid Guidelines that were just put out, or any other information we had regarding our feeling on it.

Patrick Campbell
Office of the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609
(802) 828-3333

Patrick.Campbell@vermont.gov

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State of Vermont
Department of Health
Office of the Commissioner
108 Cherry Street - PO Box 70
Burlington, VT 05402-0070
healthvermont.gov

[phone] 802-863-7280
[fax] 802-951-1275
[tdd] 800-464-4343

Agency of Human Services

January 8, 2016

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway NE
Mailstop F-63
Atlanta, GA 30341

RE: Docket ID: CDC-2015-0112
Draft CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

I am writing as Vermont's Health Commissioner with a clinical background as an Emergency Physician for over 30 years. As a State Health Official I strongly support comprehensive, multi-pronged public health approaches to address the nation's escalating prescription opioid and heroin abuse epidemic. In finding solutions to meaningfully address the consequences of prescription opioid abuse, it is important to recognize that effective pain management is an important aspect of quality healthcare. Federal and state strategies are needed to reduce the problem of inappropriate prescribing and drug diversion and abuse while, at the same time, allowing for patient-centered, legitimate medical treatment.

As an Emergency Physician I witnessed firsthand the dramatic shift that occurred over the past 20-30 years. That shift led to a culture where overprescribing of opioids became the norm. No doubt the causes are multifactorial as the solutions will need to be. It is clear to me that a culture of overprescribing has a direct and causal relationship to the opioid and heroin crisis that affects Vermont and almost every corner of our nation. Strong and emphatic guidelines from the CDC are a necessary and important step to make progress.

There are two general comments I would like to provide. One would be to suggest more clarity as to the communication and education that occurs between a prescriber and a patient. That relationship has important responsibilities on the part of both parties. I would highlight the need for safe use, safe storage and safe disposal on the patient side. I would also underscore the underlying risks to the patient receiving opioids such as addiction and overdose. The framework of informed consent and treatment agreements are important tools to ensure that they are appropriately done and documented. The second comment relates to the importance of addressing chronic pain with alternative therapies given the paucity of data to support the chronic use of opioids.

In closing, I am very supportive of the guidelines as drafted. We need to get to a more reasonable place in terms of prescribing opioids for chronic pain. The public health consequences of this crisis are great and require bold steps to remedy. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

Harry Chen MD
Commissioner of Health

