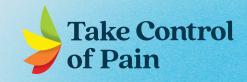
Pain Parity for Washington

Preventing Opioid Use Disorder Before It Begins



Pain is one of the most common reasons people visit their doctor.

Each year, nearly 80 million Americans' seek treatment to manage acute pain symptoms and opioids are often prescribed as a solution. While they can be effective, they can also pose significant health risks and increase chances of opioid dependency."

But breakthroughs in pain medication are enabling patients to have a choice in their pain management. Amidst the ongoing opioid epidemic, it is critical that patients have access to the treatments they want and need to address their pain.



Need for increased access to all pain treatment options

- Within one year of receiving an opioid medication to manage acute pain, approximately 85,000 Americans were diagnosed with an opioid use disorder."
- Prescribing rates have fallen, but opioid use disorders and overdoses remain high. In 2023, Washington reported:
 - More than 2,100 opioid-overdose related emergency room visitsiv
 - More than 2,800 opioid overdose deaths^v
 - More than 1.6 million opioid prescriptions, 55% of which were new opioid usersvi
 - A naloxone dispensing rate of 0.9 per 100 persons^{vii}
- Furthermore, in Washington, opioid use disorder cost Medicaid over \$966 million in excess costs in 2022.viii



Pain parity legislation for equal access to pain treatment options

Across the country, states are introducing legislation to expand access to non-opioid treatments and therapies. These policy efforts, often referred to as "pain parity" legislation, address the health insurance barriers many patients face when trying to access non-opioid treatment options. Pain parity legislation ensures patients are not disadvantaged when accessing non-opioid options by:

- · Prohibiting the use of utilization controls such as prior authorization and step therapy
- · Equalizing cost-sharing for the non-opioid prescription drug and the opioid prescription drug



Pain parity legislation in Washington

In Washington there is important legislation focused on pain parity to help patients and families.

H.B. 1034

State Representatives Lillian Ortiz-Self (D-21), Strom Peterson (D-21), Tarra Simmons (D-23), Shelley Kloba (D-1), Timm Ormsby (D-3), Debra Lekanoff (D-40), Brandy Donaghy (D-44), and Natasha Hill (D-3) introduced H.B. 1034, legislation that prohibits health insurers from imposing restrictive practices that disadvantage or discourage the use of non-opioid drugs for the treatment of pain relative to opioid drugs.

> Contact your representative to let them know Washington needs pain parity and help prevent addiction before it begins.

https://leg.wa.gov/

Visit www.families-network.org to learn more about Take Control of Pain and the state of pain parity across the U.S.

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