

Civil Society and the Development of Palliative Care Services through Strong Pain Policy

March 2007

Elmer Huerta, MD, President-Elect
American Cancer Society



Today's Presentation

Brief Introduction of the
American Cancer Society

History of Collaborations for
Strong Pain Policy in the U.S.

Our Current International
Work in Palliative Care

Our Mission

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.



The American Cancer Society Serves Millions



- 24/7/365 access to the most trusted source for cancer information
- 1.3 million calls to 1-800-ACS-2345 each year
- www.cancer.org 15.1 million visitor sessions in 2003; 64% growth in last 3 years
- Programs like Quitline, Cancer Survivors Network, Look Good-Feel Better and TLC serve millions of patients and families

American Cancer Society 2015 Goals

- ◆ 50% Reduction in Age-adjusted Cancer Mortality Rates
- ◆ 25% Reduction in Age-adjusted Cancer Incidence Rates
- ◆ Measurable Improvement in the Quality of Life from the Time of Diagnosis and for the Balance of Life of All Cancer Survivors

Public Health Crisis: Undertreatment of Cancer Pain

- Pain = part of daily life for 30-50% of cancer patients and 70-90% of those with advanced disease
- Uncontrolled pain can devastate quality of life for patients, survivors and their families
- Nearly all cancer pain CAN be relieved.

Policies Can be Barriers

- Federal and state laws and regulations can be helpful or harmful to pain control
- Must be *balanced*.
 - ✓ Medications available to patients who need them
 - ✓ And kept away from those who intend to misuse them

Pain Control – Working Together to Promote Change

- June Dahl and David Joranson, early leaders in the movement
- Many organizations in the U.S., like the Pain Policy Studies Group have been leading the charge to promote pain control
- State Pain Initiatives/Alliance of State Pain Initiatives have been critical partners

Pain Policy Studies Group Report Card: Benchmarking State Policies to Promote Better Pain Control

- Komen/Lance Armstrong Foundation/ACS jointly supporting nationwide pain policy report card grading states
- Promoting the principle of balance
- Three Report Cards- September 2006, 2007, 2008

Grades = Useful Advocacy Tool

- 19 states improved grades from 2003 to 2006
- “A” grade in 2 states (Michigan and Virginia)
- 26 states B or B+, up from 16 in 2003 and 12 in 2000
- No state’s grade dropped between 2000 and 2006

PPSG Report Card and Evaluation Guide

You can find the complete report and evaluation guide at PPSG's website:

http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/Achieving_Balance/index.html

New ACS Nationwide Pain Control Goal

By 2015:

- All 50 states and DC will have received a grade of B or higher
- 10 states will have received a grade of A

Pain Control requires more than a good grade

Improve pain policy and repeal restrictions

+

Communicate policies broadly so they are understood and put into practice

BOTH are required to improve pain control

Broad Arsenal of Opportunities

- Adopt model policies
- Use task forces, pain summits, advisory councils
- Prescription Monitoring Programs – content and data
- Ensure state cancer control plans include pain management
- Practice Change Programs and patient/provider education

Update on our Pilot International Palliative Care Efforts

Training Center at the MNJ
Regional Cancer Center – co-
hosted with INCTR and Pallium
India

Pain Policy Advocacy Training
(Delhi, April 2007)

Thank you

