

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education's Commitment Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) serves as the accrediting agency for the nine colleges of podiatric medicine in the United States and recognizes the need for a national response to counter the opioid epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 700,000 people have died from a drug overdose in the last 18 years and on average, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. To ensure that podiatric medical students are provided with training in pain management, including the judicious use of opioids, and strategies to avoid developing dependencies, CPME has included the following requirement in the newly revised accreditation standards:

Formulate strategies of pain management that minimize the occurrence of substance abuse, including but not limited to the use of opioids.

Additionally, the following standard has been proposed for inclusion in the revised standards and requirements for approval of podiatric medicine and surgery residency programs:

The resident must be afforded instruction in the following:

- Resident well-being, including but not limited to substance abuse, fatigue mitigation, suicide prevention, and resident burnout.
- Pain management and opioid addiction.

CPME joins more than 55 other organizations to form the Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. This collaboration aligns with CPME's mission to promote the quality of doctoral education, postdoctoral education, certification, and continuing education. By confirming that these programs meet established standards and requirements, CPME serves to protect the public, podiatric medical students, and doctors of podiatric medicine.

CPME is committed to collaborating with the other partners to address this critical issue.