

## Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Statement on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

At Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK), safe pain management is an essential component of cancer treatment. We strongly support the American Society of Clinical Oncology commitment to providing access to appropriate opioid analgesia for cancer patients. MSK is committed to improving opioid prescribing practices, the prevention of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and opioid diversion through numerous initiatives including a multidisciplinary Pain Opioid Stewardship committee and Controlled Substance Program Task Force that collaborates with the Senior Leadership of MSK.

### 1. Patient care and provider education.

Although patients receiving cancer treatment and palliative care are exempt from many national and state regulations and guidelines, we are committed to preventing overdose and misuse in patients treated for cancer and cancer survivors. To improve safe opioid prescribing, identify and monitor patients with an increased risk of OUD, we have adopted universal screening and monitoring tools and implemented these hospital-wide through nursing and prescriber opioid stewardship education. We are developing safe opioid initiatives using information technologies to facilitate access to prescription drug monitoring program databases, assist with opioid tapering and provide specialist level care in pain management, psychiatry, and addiction. To improve patient safety, we have used health informatics to create tools that link the results of risk screening and urine drug test results to direct patient care. We are also creating algorithms for handling suspected misuse and improve safe opioid disposal. At MSK, we have had an onsite Suboxone provider since 2009. We are working towards increasing patient access to Medication-Assistance Program at MSK and in the community. We are increasing the availability of opioid sparing therapies, interventions and medical marijuana.

### 2. Patient education.

At MSK, patient education is an essential part of safe cancer pain management, and we aim to make it easy and always available. The MSK website centralizes information, videos, and live blogs to educate patients about the importance of safe opioid storage, disposal, and diversion prevention. We aim to optimize safety to our patients, caregivers and community.

### 3. Research.

As a research center, we are engaged in ongoing research on the prevalence of and risk factors for OUD in cancer pain patients and survivors. We routinely gather data using an electronic pain quality of life tool developed using National Institute of Drug Abuse grants. We have authored numerous articles to define what we do, what works best, and what fails to succeed and continue to analyze our results.

### 4. Policy making.

Nationally, MSK strongly and successfully advocated changing the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Adult Cancer Pain guidelines for screening, monitoring for risk of OUD among cancer patients and will continue to advocate for patient care.

As a member of the NAM Action Collaborative, MSK looks forward to finding solutions to the opioid epidemic while supporting cancer patients through cancer treatment. We seek to optimize pain relief during cancer treatment while maximizing opioid safety for patients, caregivers, and the community to help end this public health crisis.