

Frontiers in Pain Management

19th Annual Meeting of the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives



Concurrent Workshop A2

Friday, October 31, 2008

9:30 am - 10:45 am

Ethical Issues in Pain Management and Palliative Care

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This session will focus on three ethical issues. The first issue concerns the pain policy implications raised by criminal prosecutions of prescribing professionals who care for chronic non-cancer pain patients. The second issue explores the ethical implications of requiring pain patients to sign “opioid contracts” and submit to random urine drug screens in order to receive opioid analgesics. The third issue involves the ethical implications of palliative options of last resort for dying patients, with a particular focus on palliative sedation.

At the conclusion of the session, participants should be able to:

- list the range of palliative options of last resort and the ethical issues they pose in the care of dying patients
- identify the ethical considerations inherent in the use of opioid contracts and random urine drug screens in the care of chronic noncancer pain patients
- describe the challenges for pain management posed by criminal prosecutions of prescribing professionals