

Ensuring Patient Access

“REMS is inevitable—we need to stay focused on suffering patients and treating their pain properly”

Lynn Webster, MD
Lifetree Clinical Research and Pain Clinic, Salt Lake City, UT



“We expect all companies marketing these products to work with us [to implement REMS] expeditiously. If not, we cannot guarantee that these products will remain on the market”

“We must find a way to work together to achieve our goals of maintaining access while reducing abuse, misuse, addiction and overdose”¹

Bob A. Rappaport, MD
Director, Division of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Rheumatology Products
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)² acknowledged the adverse physical and psychological effects of unrelieved pain and mandated that:

“Patients have the right to pain management”

References

1. Rappaport BA. REMS for Opioid Analgesics: How Did We Get Here? Where are We Going? <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/InformationbyDrugClass/UCM163672.pdf>. Accessed September 2009.
2. JCAHO. Implementing the New Pain Management Standards. Oakbrook Terrace, IL: JCAHO; 2000.