

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

The Council on Podiatric Medical Education (#PME) sees as the a leading agency for the future of 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 48,000 people have died from a drug overdose in the last year and a day, 3 Americans die every day from a opioid overdose. To ensure that podiatric medical students are prepared with training in pain management, including the judicious use of opioids, and strategies to avoid developing dependence, #PME has included the following guidelines in the newly issued accreditation standards:

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

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

The resident must be afforded instruction in the following:

- Resident will be given instruction on substance use, fatigue mitigation, suicide prevention, and resident burnout.
- Pain management and opioid addiction.

#PME joins more than 55 other organizations to form the Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medical Education (#ACPE) to fight the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. This collaboration aligns with #PME's mission to promote the quality of doctoral education, postdoctoral education, certification, and continuing education. "By affirming that these programs meet established standards and guidelines, #PME sees to protect the public, podiatric medical students, and doctors of podiatric medicine.

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