

PAINWeek Prepares for New Education Requirements for Prescribers of Opioid Analgesics

The 2011 PAINWeek National Conference for Frontline Clinicians offers significant educational value as the FDA announces the elements of a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) that will require all manufacturers of long-acting and extended-release opioids to develop information for the use of, and ensure training is provided to, prescribers of these medications.

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Recent developments in the legal and regulatory arenas pertaining to management of prescription pain medications offer new evidence of the timeliness and relevance of PAINWeek as essential education for frontline practitioners. On April 19, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy announced that it would seek legislation setting new education requirements for those who prescribe long-acting narcotics. Concurrently, the FDA announced the elements of a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) that will require all manufacturers of long-acting and extended-release opioids to develop information for the use of, and ensure training is provided to, prescribers of these medications.

While the exact nature and dimensions of these initiatives are still in development, PAINWeek attendees will have the opportunity to enhance their understanding of this emerging issue at multiple points in the conference program. Curriculum tracks in Pharmacology, Pain and Chemical Dependency, and Medical/Legal Aspects of Pain Management will offer the latest perspectives. The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) will return with a full-day program examining the balance between enforcement and pain management as applied to narcotic medications.

PAINWeek, the National Conference on Pain for Frontline Practitioners, managed by Aventine Co., will convene for its fifth year, September 7-10 in Las Vegas. With over 100 hours of continuing medical education activities available, PAINWeek is the largest and best-attended pain management conference in the country.

Commenting on the curriculum enhancements, Debra Weiner, Director of PAINWeek Program Development, noted, "We are clearly on the cusp of new and demanding educational requirements for practitioners in all disciplines in the area of prescription medication understanding and practice. PAINWeek has been addressing this issue for some time, and as a result, our attendees will thus be better equipped to deal with the new reality as it emerges. Our curriculum offers a comprehensive approach to chronic pain management that places medication within the broader spectrum of treatment options available to practitioners and patients."

Over 1,500 healthcare professionals from diverse medical specialties are expected to attend PAINWeek 2011, to be held at the new Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas on the Vegas strip. In addition to the course curriculum and its multidisciplinary faculty, attendees will be able to experience a comprehensive roster of commercially supported programs and special interest sessions, satellite symposia, scientific assemblies, and exhibitors. More information and the PAINWeek 2011 Schedule-at-a-Glance can be found at <http://www.PAINWeek.org>.

About PAINWeek

In 2007, Aventine Co. launched the PAINWeek National Conference on Pain for Frontline Practitioners, the first of its kind designed for frontline clinicians with an interest in pain management. This year, the PAINWeek National Conference is expected to welcome over 1,500 physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals seeking to improve their assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic pain. This has made PAINWeek the largest professional pain conference in the U.S. Building on this expertise in pain management education, Aventine is presenting the PAINWeekEnd™ Regional Conference Series in five US metropolitan areas in 2011. In addition to developing and producing the PAINWeek conference series, Aventine is also the management company for the American Society of Pain Educators (ASPE), a 501(c)(3) organization.