



**Guidance at the Crossroads
of Decision**

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Media Advisory

Center Supports Revised Pain Policy

*Draft guidelines view “undertreatment” of pain
as a departure from standard medical practice*

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April 8, 2004

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) has released draft revisions to its *Model Guidelines for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Abuse of Pain*. Midwest Bioethics Center advised FSMB in developing these guidelines in 1998, and served on the advisory panel for the revisions to that document this year.

“The guidelines FSMB issued in 1998 were significant in advancing better pain management in the US,” says Myra Christopher, president and CEO of the Center. “This revision will do even more in that it clearly establishes appropriate pain management as an expected part of competent medical care.”

Christopher says the draft policy also revises definitions of addiction, chronic pain and physical dependence to reflect current consensus in the medical community. At the same time, the draft emphasizes the dual obligation of government to prevent abuse of controlled substances and to ensure availability of these drugs for legitimate medical purposes.

The revised document, *Model Policy for the Use of Controlled Substances for the Treatment of Pain*, will be considered by FSMB’s House of Delegates in May.

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Lorell LaBoube at (816)221-1100 or email llaboube@midbio.org.

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