



PLAN DE SALUD  
MENONITA

CARTA CIRCULAR #: 19-00027

13 de junio de 2019

**A TODOS LOS PROVEEDORES MÉDICOS, HOSPITALARIOS Y DE SERVICIOS ANCILARES**  
**ESTRATEGIAS DE MANEJO DE OPIOIDES PARA EL PLAN DE SALUD DEL GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO – VITAL**

Estimado(a) proveedor(a):

En el Plan de Salud Menonita – Vital, nuestro compromiso es trabajar con usted de manera integrada y coordinada para un mejor manejo de los pacientes que atendemos en conjunto. Como ente facilitador, es nuestra responsabilidad proveerle toda la información necesaria y relevante para sus futuras intervenciones con los pacientes al momento en que llegan a su oficina para recibir su evaluación de salud.

En esta ocasión, le notificamos sobre las estrategias que ASES, AMSSCA, CDC y CMS están utilizando para el manejo de la sobre utilización de opioides. Se incluyen diferentes materiales informativos de las agencias previamente mencionadas. **Este es el tercer envío, relacionado al tema de opioides.**

Le incluimos información relacionada al manejo del dolor crónico sin opioides y una presentación de la nueva póliza del despacho de opioides de Medicare. Confiamos que estos materiales sean de utilidad para su práctica diaria. Como siempre, contamos con su colaboración. Nos mantenemos a su orden para cualquier duda o pregunta.

Centro de Servicio al Proveedor  
1-855-297-0140 (libre de cargos)  
lunes a viernes de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.  
<http://psmconnet.psmpr.com>

Cordialmente,

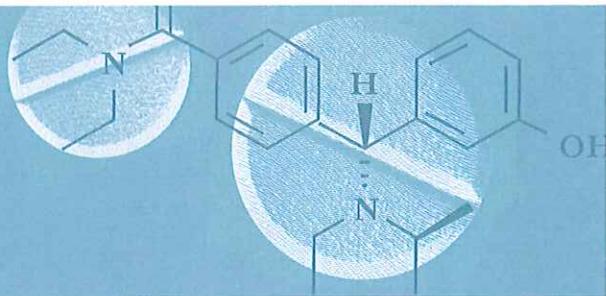
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "GSA".

Glorymar Santiago Alicea, PharmD  
Directora  
Departamento de Farmacia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "GAC".

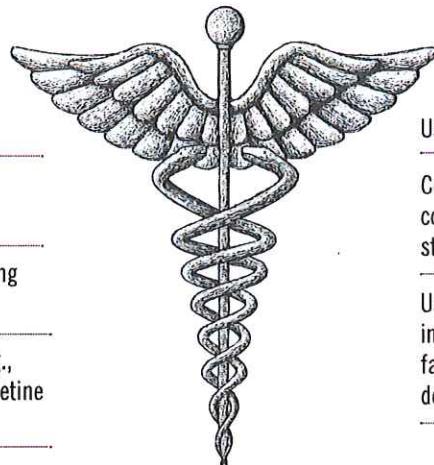
Gregorio A. Cortés Soto, MD  
Principal Oficial Médico

# NONOPIOID TREATMENTS FOR CHRONIC PAIN



## PRINCIPLES OF CHRONIC PAIN TREATMENT

Patients with pain should receive treatment that provides the greatest benefit. Opioids are not the first-line therapy for chronic pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care. Evidence suggests that nonopiod treatments, including nonopiod medications and nonpharmacological therapies can provide relief to those suffering from chronic pain, and are safer. Effective approaches to chronic pain should:



Use nonopiod therapies to the extent possible

Identify and address co-existing mental health conditions (e.g., depression, anxiety, PTSD)

Focus on functional goals and improvement, engaging patients actively in their pain management

Use disease-specific treatments when available (e.g., triptans for migraines, gabapentin/pregabalin/duloxetine for neuropathic pain)

Use first-line medication options preferentially

Consider interventional therapies (e.g., corticosteroid injections) in patients who fail standard non-invasive therapies

Use multimodal approaches, including interdisciplinary rehabilitation for patients who have failed standard treatments, have severe functional deficits, or psychosocial risk factors

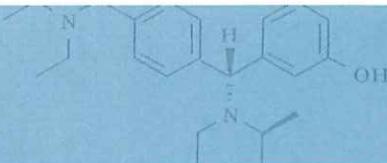
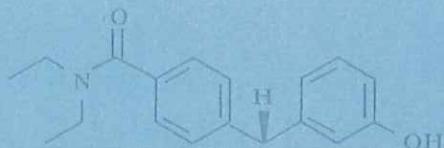
## NONOPIOID MEDICATIONS

MEDICATION	MAGNITUDE OF BENEFITS	HARMS	COMMENTS
Acetaminophen	Small	Hepatotoxic, particularly at higher doses	First-line analgesic, probably less effective than NSAIDs
NSAIDs	Small-moderate	Cardiac, GI, renal	First-line analgesic, COX-2 selective NSAIDs less GI toxicity
Gabapentin/pregabalin	Small-moderate	Sedation, dizziness, ataxia	First-line agent for neuropathic pain; pregabalin approved for fibromyalgia
Tricyclic antidepressants and serotonin/norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors	Small-moderate	TCAs have anticholinergic and cardiac toxicities; SNRIs safer and better tolerated	First-line for neuropathic pain; TCAs and SNRIs for fibromyalgia, TCAs for headaches
Topical agents (lidocaine, capsaicin, NSAIDs)	Small-moderate	Capsaicin initial flare/burning, irritation of mucus membranes	Consider as alternative first-line, thought to be safer than systemic medications. Lidocaine for neuropathic pain, topical NSAIDs for localized osteoarthritis, topical capsaicin for musculoskeletal and neuropathic pain



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

LEARN MORE | [www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html)



## RECOMMENDED TREATMENTS FOR COMMON CHRONIC PAIN CONDITIONS

### Low back pain

**Self-care and education in all patients;** advise patients to remain active and limit bedrest

**Nonpharmacological treatments:** Exercise, cognitive behavioral therapy, interdisciplinary rehabilitation

#### Medications

- First-line: acetaminophen, non-steroidal anti inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Second-line: Serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs)/tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)

### Migraine

#### Preventive treatments

- Beta-blockers
- TCAs
- Antiseizure medications
- Calcium channel blockers
- Non-pharmacological treatments (Cognitive behavioral therapy, relaxation, biofeedback, exercise therapy)
- Avoid migraine triggers

#### Acute treatments

- Aspirin, acetaminophen, NSAIDs (may be combined with caffeine)
- Antinausea medication
- Triptans-migraine-specific

### Neuropathic pain

**Medications:** TCAs, SNRIs, gabapentin/pregabalin, topical lidocaine

### Osteoarthritis

**Nonpharmacological treatments:** Exercise, weight loss, patient education

#### Medications

- First-line: Acetaminophen, oral NSAIDs, topical NSAIDs
- Second-line: Intra-articular hyaluronic acid, capsaicin (limited number of intra-articular glucocorticoid injections if acetaminophen and NSAIDs insufficient)

### Fibromyalgia

**Patient education:** Address diagnosis, treatment, and the patient's role in treatment

**Nonpharmacological treatments:** Low-impact aerobic exercise (e.g., brisk walking, swimming, water aerobics, or bicycling), cognitive behavioral therapy, biofeedback, interdisciplinary rehabilitation

#### Medications

- FDA-approved: Pregabalin, duloxetine, milnacipran
- Other options: TCAs, gabapentin

