Opioid Regulations Are Widely Misunderstood

BY BRUCE K. DIXON

Salt Lake City — State laws governing the availability and use of opioid analogs are becoming less onerous, but confusion and misunderstanding persist among regulators and practitioners, according to David E. Joranson.

“There are some positive aspects of policies being developed over the last several years because [states] are more affirmatively recognizing how valuable opioids are in medical practice,” said Mr. Joranson, director of the University of Wisconsin Pain and Policy Studies Group in Madison.

The group’s mission is to “achieve more balanced international, federal, and state policies so that patients’ access to pain medications is not compromised by efforts to prevent diversion and drug abuse,” he said.

A large number of physicians don’t have a clear understanding of federal and state regulations governing pain management and overestimate state and federal restrictions on opioid use, he said.

Mr. Joranson is also research director of the American Society of Addiction Medicine in New Orleans, he added.

“Obviously, some of the laws that have the Переведите статью на русский язык.