

DATE: November 3, 2017

TO: Deans of U.S. Dental Schools
Directors of Advanced Dental Education Programs
Directors of Allied Dental Education Programs
ADEA Board of Directors
ADEA Legislative Advisory Committee
ADEA Council Administrative Boards' Members

FROM: Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H., President and CEO
Tim Leeth, ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer

RE: The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis

On March 29, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) establishing the six-member "President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis" (Commission). Its charge is to study the scope and effectiveness of the Federal response to drug addiction and the opioid crisis and to make recommendations to the President for improving that response.

The Commission adopted its [final report](#) on Nov. 1. The 56 recommendations outlined in the report may inform future federal legislative and regulatory activity; however, currently they are not legally binding. Several recommendations that may impact the dental education and dental research community are briefly summarized below. Specifically, the Commission recommends that:

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services coordinates the development of a national curriculum and standard of care for opioid prescribers. An updated set of guidelines should be established by an expert committee comprised of various specialty practices to supplement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which are specifically targeted to primary care physicians.
- Federal agencies work to collect participation data. Data on prescribing patterns should be matched with participation in continuing education data to determine program effectiveness, and the analytics shared with clinicians and state licensing boards.
- The Administration works with Congress to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to require that all prescribers seeking to be relicensed to prescribe opioids show participation in an approved continuing education program on opioid prescribing.

- Federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, undertake a comprehensive review of existing research programs and establish goals for pain management and addiction research for both prevention and treatment.
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy and the DEA increase electronic prescribing to prevent diversion and forgery. The DEA should revise regulations regarding electronic prescribing for controlled substances.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services removes pain survey questions entirely from patient satisfaction surveys.

ADEA's review of this final report is ongoing and we will continue to monitor, actively participate in and report on any future legislative and regulatory activity related to this critical issue. If you have questions about the Commission's final report, or if we can be of further assistance in this regard, please contact Tim Leeth, ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer, at LeethT@adea.org or (202) 289-7201.