The Grünenthal charter on the responsible medical use of opioids in pain

Pain represents a huge burden in society: 
~1.5 billion people suffer from chronic pain around the world.1

Access to adequate pain medicines is a key element in the treatment of pain patients – it is widely accepted as a basic human right2 and remains a serious public health issue, especially in low-income countries.3

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 5.5 billion people (83% of the world’s population) live in countries with low to non-existent access to controlled medicines and have inadequate access to treatment for moderate to severe pain.4

The opioid crisis in some countries needs to be addressed with high urgency. Preventive measures need to be implemented to limit or stop the crisis and to prevent its occurrence or worsening in other countries and geographies.

Grünenthal will continue its efforts to minimize the risk of inappropriate and illegitimate use of prescription opioids, while striving to ensure that patients with a clear need are not denied access to effective and appropriate treatments.

We recognize the unfulfilled medical needs of pain patients, the challenges faced by healthcare professionals and the increasing pressure on social and health care systems caused by the inappropriate and illegitimate use of prescription opioids.

We recognize the importance of working with the medical community to ensure compliance to policies and guidelines regulating the correct medical use of opioids in pain treatment.

We are committed to developing and distributing our products in line with the highest ethical and scientific standards.

We believe that opioids remain an option for appropriate pain patients, and strive to reduce the risks of non-medical inappropriate use of our products to the greatest degree possible.

We are committed to developing novel solutions to relieve pain and to contribute to improving the lives of patients with pain problems. We are exploring or planning to bring novel, innovative, approved and registered products to market, including non-opioids and combination products, for the management of pain.

Our commitments in this area:

We recognize the unhindered medical needs of pain patients, their challenges, hurdles and put pressures on social and health care systems causing the inappropriate and illegitimate use of prescription opioids.

We work in bringing innovative solutions to relieve pain and to contribute to redefining the future of pain management through our own research, as well as by drawing on external innovation, collaborations and networks. Our research and development focus on pain treatment in general and high pain intensity.

For more information on the Grünenthal charter on the responsible medical use of opioids in pain, click here.

References


