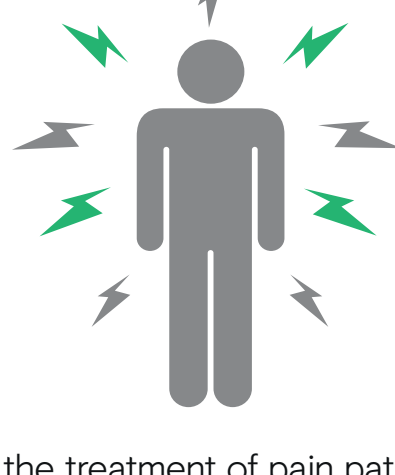


# The Grünenthal charter on the responsible medical use of opioids in pain

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



Access to adequate pain medicines is a key element in the treatment of pain patients – it is widely accepted as a basic human right<sup>2</sup> and remains a serious public health issue, especially in low-income countries.<sup>3</sup>



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.<sup>4</sup>

A wide spectrum of therapies are available to help manage pain, depending on its severity. One option for moderate to severe pain is the use of opioids.

Opioids can carry a risk of inappropriate use:<sup>5</sup>



misuse



abuse



addiction



diversion

It is essential that physicians prescribe opioids after careful consideration of the benefits and risks of all available treatment options.



At Grünenthal, we believe physicians prescribing opioids should adopt an individual approach to opioid therapy, including agreeing a clear and realistic therapeutic objective with the patient.

We share the broad consensus in the pain community that:



the opioid crisis in some countries needs to be addressed with high urgency

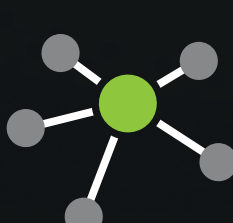


preventive measures need to be implemented to limit or stop this crisis and to prevent its occurrence or worsening in other countries and geographies.

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 are working to bring 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. In our research and development, we are also investigating non-opioid modes of action.

Our commitments in this are:



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



We put patient needs at the core of the development and therapeutic use of our medicines, demonstrating our belief that access to pain management is a fundamental human right



We are committed to developing novel analgesics with better safety profiles, including opioids and non-opioids



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 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

For more information on the Grünenthal charter on the responsible medical use of opioids in pain, click [here](#).

## References

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5. Brennan et al. Access to Pain Management as a Human Right. Am J Public Health. 2019; 109(1): 61-65.