

# INDIANA PAIN INITIATIVE

*Awareness. Education. Management. For all Hoosiers.*

The Indiana Pain Initiative is a statewide organization comprised of patient and family advocates, and healthcare providers and professionals working towards quality pain management.

Pain is a public health issue! More than 75 million Americans suffer from persistent pain, and each year another 25 million experience acute pain as a result of injuries or surgery. For persons with cancer, one-third experience pain at the time of diagnosis and more than two-thirds have significant pain as the disease progresses. One-third of terminally ill patients needlessly die in pain! The World Health Organization has identified pain as a worldwide problem.

Despite the fact that most pain can be relieved with existing therapies, barriers exist that prevent adequate treatment. Among these barriers are government policies that are intended to prevent the misuse of prescription drugs, but may inadvertently make it difficult for persons with pain to get prescription pain medicines

## **Mission**

The purpose of the Indiana Pain Initiative is to improve pain management by reducing educational, regulatory and economic barriers within the state.

## **Goals for the Indiana Pain Initiative**

- Improve the management knowledge for professionals and consumers
- Increase public awareness and health literacy regarding pain issues across Indiana
- Serve as a clearinghouse for pain education resources
- Support public policies which promotes consumer protection and excellence in pain management

## **Activities in 2006 of the Indiana Pain Initiative**

- Pain Tract in conjunction with the IHPCO conference featuring session on Best Practices in Pain Management, as well as on legal issues with pain management
- Listening Session, Indiana Government Center- featuring Dr. Carmen Green. The public and professionals are invited to speak about their experiences with pain management. A white paper will be produced from the testimony at the Listening Session.
- Participating in the *Institutional Change Project* beginning in September 2006 by providing education and benchmarking with home health agencies, long term care facilities, and health care systems and training by hospice and national experts
- Establishment of a Pain Initiative Advisory Council and workgroups (Public Policy, Professional Education, Public Education)

## **Become a part of the solution**

- Joining a workgroup to develop written and multimedia educational offerings for professionals and consumers
- Participating in a speaker's bureau on pain issues
- Joining a workgroup in the development and implementation of a public engagement campaign to improve awareness regarding pain issues
- Participate in a workgroup to develop a pain public policy agenda and then to foster relationships with public policy makers who guide practice related to pain management