

## **Statement: Protecting Access to Pain Relief Coalition (PAPR)**

### *Acetaminophen*

The Protecting Access to Pain Relief (PAPR) Coalition, a multi-stakeholder group of 16 national public health organizations, calls on policymakers, healthcare professionals, and public health stakeholders to join patient consumers and frontline healthcare professionals in supporting continued choice and access to appropriate over-the-counter (OTC) pain relief options. Since its inception in 2014, the PAPR Coalition has advocated for evidence-based education and information on safe use of OTC pain relief options as a part of a patient's comprehensive pain management plan, developed in conjunction with health care professionals they choose and trust. For the millions of Americans experiencing pain or fever and managing major life events, including pregnancy, it is critical that they receive evidence-based advice to make the best decision to manage their pain safely.

Choice of and access to OTC pain relief that is safe for patients is a founding principle and key priority of PAPR. Federal government advice on OTC pain relief options should recognize the broad spectrum of potential medical conditions that require their use, as well as the unique circumstances of medical burdens managed by individual patients and their caregivers. Government advice should emphasize the importance of patients consulting healthcare professionals they trust, especially for the millions of Americans who live with persistent pain. To the greatest extent possible, government advice should be clear, consistent, and fact-based in order to avoid any potential negative effects on individual patients, public health outcomes, and taxpayers that may arise from mixed messages on OTC pain relief safety and efficacy or delayed treatment.

Many Americans experiencing pain or fever have diseases or conditions that limit their choice of OTC pain relief. Approximately 120 million adults in the US have a health condition for which acetaminophen may be the most appropriate pain reliever. For example, approximately 37 million Americans have kidney disease, 800,000+ have kidney failure (including those living on dialysis), and 200,000+ live with a kidney transplant. For kidney patients, including kidney transplant recipients, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to treat pain can be dangerous to their health and are contraindicated for transplant recipients. PAPR stands ready, as we have for the past 11 years, to work closely with partner organizations, including the federal government, to ensure that all Americans have the benefit of science-based information that they can share with their healthcare professionals to determine their best plan for maintaining optimum health, including choice and access to the appropriate OTC pain relief options.