



CDA Opioid Policy

CDA recognizes that dentists play a pivotal role in providing quality care, ensuring patient safety, and supporting the improvement of public health. The misuse and abuse of opioids has resulted in epidemic levels of addiction and death in California and nationally. As prescribers of opioids for dental pain management, dentists have a professional responsibility to reduce the misuse and abuse of opioids, and through education and advocacy, CDA has been a leader in responding to this public health crisis.

CDA will continue to demonstrate proactive leadership in addressing the opioid crisis through education and promotion of evidence-based acute pain management practices, and collaborative partnerships with specialty dental organizations, dental schools, patients and parents of patients to both reduce reliance on opioids for dental pain management and to minimize minors' first exposure to opioids.

CDA will promote the use of prescription drug monitoring programs, substance use disorder education, and enhanced collaboration between dentists and their medical colleagues to assist in identifying a patient's full medication profile and potential substance use disorders prior to prescribing an opioid.