
In Support of Manchikanti et al ACOEM Guideline Criticisms

To THE EDITOR:

I have been involved in the field of Pain Medicine for some 22 years now, and have seen the incredible progress in the development of more effective treatments for our chronic pain patients.

It is with great interest that I read the 2 articles (1,2). I have been aware of the ACOEM guidelines and I am heartened that *Pain Physician* has published these 2 articles to make their readership aware of the severe limitations of the ACOEM guidelines and the barrier to access that would occur for patients in pain that adopting these guidelines would entail.

I echo the authors in emphasizing that the ACOEM guidelines failed significantly in using any expert input from the concerned specialties, including interventional pain and neuromodulation practitioners. As the major specialty society in the world for neuro-

modulation we had absolutely no real input into these guidelines. The ACOEM guidelines failed in reviewing the medical literature.

One has to question why such a flagrant disregard for experts in the field and the scientific literature would be promulgated by an organization such as ACOEM. There are always multiple factors and motivators that go into the decision-making process. To be sure, the losers in all of this turn out to be the patients who truly need appropriate and evidence-based treatments which ACOEM ignores.

Marshall D. Bedder, MD
Advanced Pain Management Specialists
1425 Viscaya Pkwy. Suite 202
Cape Coral, FL 33990
E-mail: mbedder@aol.com

REFERENCES

1. Manchikanti L, Singh V, Derby R, Helm S, Trescot AM, Staats PS, Prager JP, Hirsch JA. Review of occupational medicine practice guidelines for interventional pain management and potential implications. *Pain Physician* 2008; 11:271-289.
2. Manchikanti L, Singh V, Helm S, Trescot AM, Hirsch JA. A critical appraisal of 2007 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) practice guidelines for interventional pain management: An independent review utilizing AGREE, AMA, IOM, and other criteria. *Pain Physician* 2008; 11:291-310.