



APMA

Australian Pain Management Association
est. 2009

Deprescribing Opioid Analgesics Consumer Survey 2022

A society free
of un-treated
pain

APMA Submission



The Australian Pain Management Association (APMA) welcomes the development of evidence based clinical guidelines into opioid deprescribing and the opportunity to make a submission under public consultation on behalf of our community members.

The Australian Pain Management Association Limited (APMA) was established in 2009 as an association incorporated to address the need for community services and representation for the estimated 3.4 millions of Australians living with pain. APMA provides collective advocacy, information and practical support for people living with persistent pain and their families. We aim to enhance the well-being of all Australians living with persistent pain through guided pain management. This is reflected in the goals of the National Pain Strategy which APMA actively supports.

As a peak consumer body representing Australians affected by persistent pain, we are well placed to make this submission and represent our community members, most of whom have relied on opioids to manage their pain at different stages in their health journey. The anonymous survey was open for a period of 20 days, commencing 3 March 2022. 111 respondents completed the survey, including 70 individuals who would be willing to provide information about their experiences.

APMA supports the concept to develop clinical guidelines for deprescribing opioid analgesics, however consideration for the integration of the guidelines, specifically for General Practitioners and tapering, needs to be carefully considered and widely consulted. We also note that community members advise that their GPs regularly tell them that they perceive the legislation regarding opioid prescribing is policing their practices and they are concerned with deregistration. Our community members feel General Practitioners need more support regarding persistent pain and opioid management.

Yours sincerely,
Renee Rankin
Chief Executive Officer

Survey Responses



Q1 - Do you feel your GP understands persistent pain?



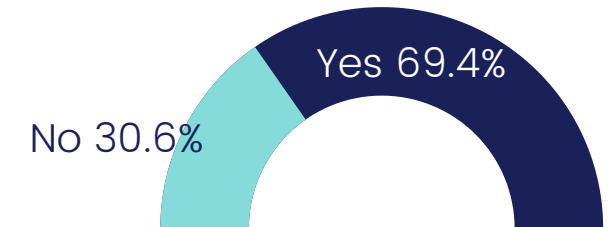
Q2 - Have you seen this GP for pain management treatment more than 3 times in the last year?



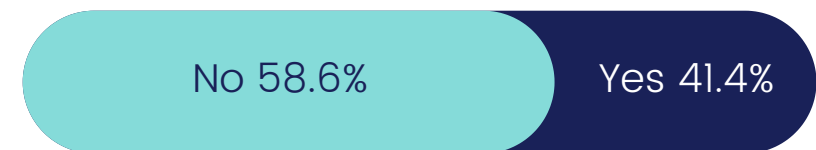
Q3 - Was your opioid medication prescribed by a GP?



Q4 - When you first commenced taking an opioid, did you & your doctor discuss the objective of taking it? For example, by taking this medication I hope to have enough pain relief to be able to hang up my washing by myself / walk my dog / sleep through the night?



Q5 - Was a timeframe set to review whether you had gained this functionality?

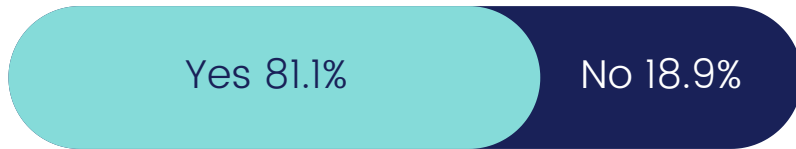


Q6- Did you discuss other treatment options that were not related to medication?

Survey Responses



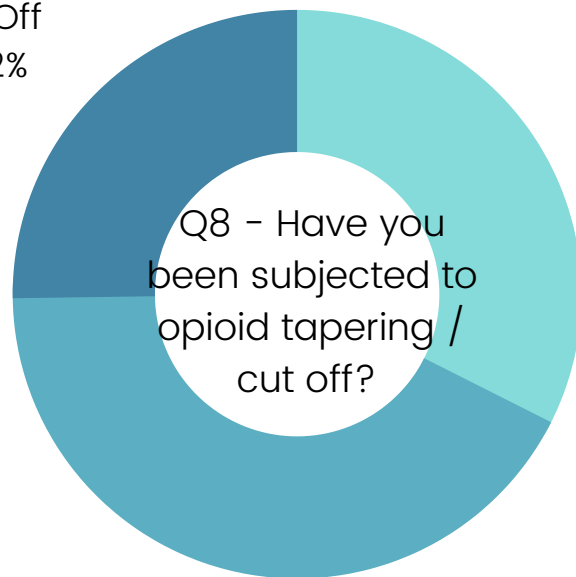
Q7 - Were you of the understanding that taking this opioid medication would be a long term option to help manage your pain> (i.e > 3 months)



Q9 - Did you feel you & your doctor discussed the reasons why you were not going to continue taking the opioid?



Cut Off
25.2%

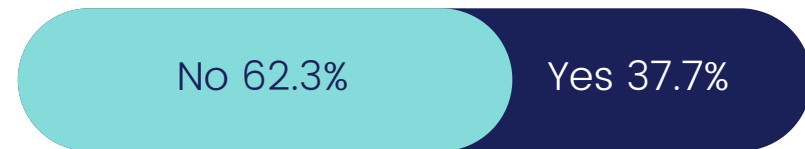


Q8 - Have you been subjected to opioid tapering / cut off?

No Changes
32.4%

Tapering
42.3%

Q10 - Did your doctor prescribe something else?



Q11 - Has your pharmacist completed a medicine review in the last year?



Mount Gravatt
Pain Support Group



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