

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

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President
RUSSELL R. LONSER, MD
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April 5, 2016

Kana Enomoto, Principal Deputy Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13E21C
Rockville, Maryland 20857

SUBJECT: Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders

Dear Ms. Enomot:

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), AANS/CNS Section on Pain and the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves, we are pleased to support the medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders proposal published in the March 30, 2016 *Federal Register*. If adopted, this rule should improve patient access to appropriately trained practitioners for opioid use disorders.

Although this rule does not directly apply to neurosurgeons, we welcome efforts that offer our patients enhanced treatment options. In addition, we believe that any actions taken to spread awareness regarding the locations of these qualified practitioners and treatment programs is greatly needed, such that our patients can be appropriately educated and referred to such specialists if and when indicated.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

H. Hunt Batjer, MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Russell R. Lonser, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Andre G. Machado, MD, PhD, Chair
AANS/CNS Section on Pain

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