

ASPMN Health Policy Guiding Principles

ASPMN bases its health care policy positions and actions on the following health policy guiding principles.

- ASPMN supports the position that it is the responsibility and obligation of clinicians to address all types in the geriatric patient, which includes end-of-life in order to provide the older patient with a higher quality of life.
- ASPMN stand is to take a leadership and advocacy role to ensure humane and competent treatment of pain and suffering in all infants, children and adolescents.
- ASPMN works independently and collaboratively in local, state, federal, and international arenas to safeguard appropriate access to culturally appropriate pain care regardless of age, gender, or diagnosis and to safeguard appropriate access to prescription pain medications.
- ASPMN encourages and supports culturally sensitive public education regarding the legitimate use and the abuse of prescription pain medications.
- ASPMN partners with law enforcement agencies, health care practitioners, and patient advocates to establish drug abuse prevention as an important societal goal in as much as it does not hinder legitimate access to care and medications for pain.
- ASPMN adheres to the ethical principles of beneficence (the duty to benefit another) and justice (the equal or comparative treatment of individuals) oblige healthcare professionals to manage pain and provide humane care to all patients, including those patients know or suspected to have addictive disease.
- ASPMN advocates for central ethical tenets of the American Nurses Associate Code for Nurses (1995) including truth telling, fidelity, trust, and respectful care. In respect to placebos, informed consent is necessary to avoid compromising the therapeutic relationship between patients and healthcare providers.
- ASPMN recognizes that neonatal circumcision is a painful procedure and that the neonate has a right to an anesthetic prior to the procedure. It is our belief that unanesthetized circumcision violates the ethical principle of non-maleficence, which is the duty to do no harm.
- ASPMN promotes ethical and effective pain and symptom management as an integral part of palliative care and that care is based on the pain report and mutually agreed upon goals as defined by the patients in collaboration with the healthcare team.
- ASPMN opposes the participation of nurses in the act of assisted suicide and supports improved access for appropriate pain care that allows patients to die with dignity and adequate relief of pain.