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NEW BOOK HELPS PHYSICIANS BETTER MANAGE ACUTE AND CHRONIC PAIN

Dallas – The Federation of State Medical Boards Research and Education Foundation (FSMB) has released a new book to help physicians better manage patients’ acute or chronic pain. *Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Physicians Guide* offers real-world explanations and practical strategies that address issues of undertreatment of pain, risk of prescription drug abuse and improved patient care.

Written by Scott M. Fishman, M.D., chief of the Division of Pain Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of California, Davis, *Responsible Opioid Prescribing* translates the FSMB’s consensus model policy on pain management into practical, office-based pain management guidelines.

“Physicians need useful steps that will help them better manage their patients’ pain,” said Lisa Robin, senior vice president of Member Services for the FSMB. “This book bridges the gap between policy and practice and is an important resource to improve patients’ quality of life.”

Responsible Opioid Prescribing recommends steps for:

- Ensuring effective patient evaluation
- Creating and maintaining clear, consistent, transparent and detailed documentation
- Creating a function-based treatment plan with actionable patient goals
- Obtaining a written patient-physician agreement that includes informed consent and significant patient education
- Overseeing periodic review that focuses on progress toward functional goals
- Making specialist referrals and managing difficult patients

“The strategies we provide meet the expectations of not only physicians and their patients, but those of patient advocacy groups, medical societies and law enforcement as well,” said Dr. Fishman.

Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Physicians Guide is available at www.fsmb.org. Discounted bulk orders are available for large practices, hospitals and other groups.

The FSMB is a national not-for-profit organization representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories. The FSMB’s mission is to continuously improve the quality, safety and integrity of health care by developing and promoting high standards for physician licensure and practice. For more information, visit the FSMB’s website at www.fsmb.org.