To the Editor:

We appreciate the comments on ACOEM guidelines from Brown et al (1), Jasper (2), Bedder (3), and Riegler et al (4) in response to our articles on ACOEM guideline synthesis, process, implications, and reassessment (5-7). These manuscripts were published in response to onerous guidelines published by ACOEM and implemented in many states (8,9). The potential implications of these guidelines are widespread by reducing quality of care, hindering access to medical care, and finally, these guidelines in fact may increase cost for injured workers, third party payors, and the government by transferring the injured worker into a non-productive disability system (5). The ACOEM guidelines for interventional pain management have no applicability in modern patient care due to lack of evidence, lack of expertise by the developing organization (ACOEM), lack of utilization of appropriate and current EBM principles, lack of significant involvement of experts in these techniques, and more importantly with scores in the range of 30% — not suitable for clinical practice, by standardized criteria (6,7,10).

Unfortunately, with all the reviews, letters, congressional inquiries (11,12), the response from the authors (13) has not addressed any of the questions raised. In addition, the expert evaluation from Genoves published in APG Insights (14) also failed to provide an open forum for discussion.

Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD
Associate Clinical Professor of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine

University of Louisville, Kentucky
Medical Director
Pain Management Center of Paducah
Paducah, Kentucky
2831 Lone Oak Rd.
Paducah, KY 42001
drlm@thepainmd.com

Vijay Singh, MD
Medical Director
Pain Diagnostic Associates
1601 Roosevelt Road
Niagara, WI 54151
vj@wmpnet.net

David M. Schultz, MD
Medical Director
Medical Advances Pain Specialists
2104 Northdale Boulevard NW, Suite 220
Minneapolis, MN 55433
dschultz@painphysicians.com

Ramsin Benyamin, MD
Medical Director
Millennium Pain Center
1015 S. Mercer
Bloomington IL 61701
ramsinbenyamin@yahoo.com

References


