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2 **VMS RESOLUTION**
3 **PAIN TREATMENT AND ASSESSMENT**

4 *Adopted at 191st VMS Annual Meeting, October 23, 2004*

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6 WHEREAS, VMS has had a longstanding commitment to improving pain treatment
7 and end-of-life care in Vermont and is actively engaged in promoting initiatives that
8 assure all dying Vermonters receive good, comprehensive care; and

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10 WHEREAS, VMS supports improving the quality of care through the establishment of
11 public - private partnerships that include physicians and state government designed to
12 improve quality of medical care including pain assessment and treatment; and

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14 WHEREAS, pain management is an integral aspect of quality medical care; and

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16 WHEREAS, all practicing clinicians need to know how to assess and treat pain; and

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18 WHEREAS, Assessment of pain involves a complex evaluation of subjective symptoms
19 that cannot be measured objectively; and

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21 WHEREAS, treatment of pain requires multi-disciplinary involvement of physicians
22 and other practitioners and drug and non-drug treatment; and

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24 WHEREAS, treatment planning and goal setting for patients with pain at the end of life
25 differs from patients with chronic pain not associated with life-threatening illness; and

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27 WHEREAS, pain medications with potential for abuse and diversion may be the only
28 effective treatment for some patients in pain; and

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30 WHEREAS physicians must constantly balance the potential for improving pain care
31 through greater availability of effective analgesic medications with the risks of harm to
32 both patients and to society through diversion and abuse of prescription medications;
33 therefore be it

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35 **RESOLVED, that VMS renew its commitment to work to improve the treatment**
36 **and assessment of pain; and be it further**

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38 **RESOLVED, that VMS work with the Vermont Program for Quality in Health**
39 **Care (VPQHC), consistent with available funding, to evaluate the current status**
40 **of pain treatment and end-of-life care in Vermont; and be it further**

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42 **RESOLVED, that VMS work with VPQHC, consistent with available funding,**
43 **to ensure that appropriate guidelines for the treatment and assessment of pain,**
44 **based on national and internationally recognized standards, are recommended for**
45 **use in Vermont; and be it further**

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1 **RESOLVED, that the VMS work with the University of Vermont's College of**
2 **Medicine (UVMCOM) to evaluate the current status of education for medical**
3 **students and residents in Vermont on the issue of pain treatment and end-of-life**
4 **care; and be it further**

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6 **RESOLVED, that, based on VPQHC and UVMCOM studies, the VMS work to**
7 **ensure that appropriate education and resources are available to improve**
8 **treatment and assessment of pain in Vermont; and be it further**

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10 **RESOLVED, that the VMS work with state agencies and the law enforcement**
11 **community to ensure that all parties are aware of the proper use and potential for**
12 **abuse of pain medications; and be it further**

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14 **RESOLVED, that the VMS work to increase understanding of the differences**
15 **involved in treating pain at the end of life, as opposed to treating chronic or acute**
16 **pain experienced by patients who are not dying; and be it further**

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18 **RESOLVED, that the VMS work to ensure that Vermont physicians are informed**
19 **about the Policy of the Vermont Board of Medical Practice on Chronic Pain**
20 **Management.**

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