Grünenthal’s position on the responsible medical use of opioid analgesics in pain patients
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Preamble

Grüntenhal is a science-based pharmaceutical company with a strong focus on pain treatment. Our core objective is to develop and make available products and solutions which address the unmet needs of patients and have the potential to improve their quality of life.

It is important that patients receive appropriate pain treatment with careful consideration of the benefits and risks of the available options. Amongst the wide spectrum of pain treatments that need to be wisely chosen, one option available to physicians and their patients remains the use of opioid analgesics. As a manufacturer of efficacious analgesics including opioid analgesics, Grüntenhal is aware that in addition to the benefits these medicines can provide to patients suffering from pain, they can also carry a risk for nonmedical use (i.e. any inappropriate use, misuse, abuse, addiction [opioid use disorder, OUD] and diversion).

Grüntenhal will continue and further enhance its efforts to implement appropriate measures to minimize the risk of inappropriate and illegitimate use of prescription opioids while striving to ensure that patients with a clear need are not denied access.

We share the broad consensus in the pain community that the opioid crisis in some countries needs to be addressed with high urgency and that preventive measures need to be implemented to limit or stop this crisis and to prevent its occurrence or worsening in other countries and geographies.
1. Grüenental recognizes the unfulfilled medical needs of patients with pain, the challenges for Health Care Professionals treating these patients and the increasing pressure on social and health care systems caused by the inappropriate and illegitimate use of prescription opioids.

2. The patient needs are central in the development and therapeutic use of Grüenental medicines. Grüenenthal adheres to the principles of “Access to Pain Management is a Fundamental Human Right” and “Pain as a disease in its own right”.

3. Grüenenthal is committed to the development of novel analgesics with better safety profiles, i.e. safer opioid analgesics - by formulation technology and differentiated molecular mechanism of action - and non-opioid analgesics. Aiming to broaden the therapeutic options for health care providers, Grüenenthal is one of the leaders in research and development to deliver state of the art pain treatments to patients in need.

4. Opioid analgesics will remain an important treatment option for selected pain patients. While striving to ensure that patients in need are not denied access to opioid analgesics, we take our role associated with the development and commercialization of opioid analgesics seriously and aim to reduce the risks of nonmedical inappropriate use of our products to the greatest degree possible.

5. Grüenenthal recognises the importance of working with the medical community and supports medical education to ensure compliance to policies and guidelines regulating the correct medical use of opioid analgesics in pain treatment. Grüenenthal does not support the off-label, inappropriate or nonmedical use of opioid analgesics.

6. We develop, commercialize and distribute our products in line with highest ethical and scientific standards, according to the Grüenenthal code of conduct and industry standards in collaboration with patient representatives, healthcare professionals, business partners and authorities.