

Excellent chronic pain guideline

In the PEER simplified chronic pain guideline article published in the March issue of *Canadian Family Physician*,¹ the authors have created exactly the tool we all need in approaching chronic pain. They take care to consider the perspective of family physicians and the best available evidence. The 10 pages of their guideline are succinct considering the complexity of the topic (and their 2-page summary for less patient readers accurately represents the longer version). This guideline provides me with tools that I will use to share decision making with my patients rather than trying to fit them into a one-size-fits-all formula. My own pain in reading the guideline was 0 out of 10. Well done!

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Competing interests

None declared

Reference

1. Korownyk CS, Montgomery L, Young J, Moore S, Singer AG, MacDougall P, et al. PEER simplified chronic pain guideline. Management of chronic low back, osteoarthritic, and neuropathic pain in primary care. *Can Fam Physician* 2022;68:179-90 (Eng), e63-76 (Fr).

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Treating the vaccine hesitant

I commend the authors for their empathetic, compassionate, humble, and common-sense response to vaccine hesitancy (or outright vaccine antipathy) in the March issue of *Canadian Family Physician*.¹ Some old lessons (“treat others as you would like to be treated”) are worth relearning. Earnestly trying to understand our patients’ life stories, beliefs, environments, and perspectives has always been a marker of a skilled family physician, and I thank the authors for reminding us that we treat patients, not COVID-19.

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Competing interests

None declared

Reference

1. Dainton C, Wong J. Repairing our broken relationship with the vaccine hesitant. Empathy, compassion, and humility are needed. *Can Fam Physician* 2022;68:211-3.

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