



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

October 16, 2017

Hugh Straley, MD
Chair, Robert Bree Collaborative
c/o Foundation for Health Care Quality
705 Second Avenue, Suite 410
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Dr. Straley:

SUBJECT: Dental Guideline on Prescribing Opioids

Thank you for your correspondence of October 3. We have reviewed recommendations and metrics developed by the Bree Collaborative for the prescribing of opioids for dental pain. The Health Care Authority accepts and is thankful for the continued effort and focus on strategies to reduce harms resulting from opioid prescribing while and improving quality of care.

As evidenced by the caliber of the experts participating in the Bree workgroup on this and other topics, our state continues to lead efforts to improve opioid prescribing and reverse the devastation resulting from use of powerful pain medications. The evidence-based, data-driven development of guidelines targeted to help those treating dental pain may be overdue, but should result in improved health outcomes through more appropriate and uniform care. I sincerely appreciate your work on this continuing public health issue.

Thank you and the Collaborative for continuing your outstanding efforts to improve the safe and effective purchasing and improvement of health care and overall health in Washington State. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Josh Morse, Health Technology Assessment Director, by telephone at 360-725-0839 or via email at Josh.Morse@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Louis McDermott
Acting Director