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White House Opioid Commission Release Final Report

On November 1, the President's [Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis](#) published a list of [56 recommendations](#) following President Trump's declaration of the opioid crisis as a national public health emergency. Opioid misuse and overdose results in the deaths of 175 Americans daily. The newly released document marks the final report of the commission, following months of meetings with major stakeholders involved in the crisis.

Many of the recommendations will directly impact nursing and nursing education, including those focused on opioid prescriber training. Recommendation #7 calls for "HHS [to] coordinate the development of a national curriculum and standard of care for opioid prescribers." This calls for the implementation of new training requirements for those with the ability to prescribe opioid painkillers. Recommendation #10 calls for "the DEA to require that all prescribers desiring to be relicensed to prescribe opioids show participation in an approved continuing medical education program on opioid prescribing."

The commission's report also may have an impact on how a provider's performance is evaluated. Recommendation #18 calls for an end to the current system that evaluates providers based on how well they treat self-reported pain. The entire set of recommendations, their rationale, and further discussion on the current opioid landscape can be found [here](#).



President Nominates Former Pharmaceutical Executive as Next HHS Secretary

President Donald Trump has nominated former pharmaceutical executive Alex Azar, JD, as the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Mr. Azar previously worked at HHS, where he served as general counsel from 2001-2005 and as deputy secretary for two years under former President George W. Bush. Most recently in the private sector, Azar was president of the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly & Co. He left his job at Eli Lilly earlier this year. Azar's nomination comes after the resignation of former HHS secretary Tom Price.



Medical Library Association to Offer Research Training Institute

The Medical Library Association has received a three-year grant for the Institute for Museum and Library Services to offer an annual week-long immersive learning experience in research to help library professionals create and apply research-based evidence in library practice and support quality health care. The Research Training Institute (RTI) immersion experience, offered to 20 participants annually, is geared toward library professionals who are employed by health sciences libraries or who provide health information, support, and services to healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, students, patients, consumers, or the public. The 2018 RTI will be held on the campus of University of Illinois at Chicago, July 9-13. More information can be found on the [project website](#).