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## QUESTIONS From Symposium Participants

**Q:** How can drug-seeking behaviors be identified, and when observed, how should the treatment plan be modified?

**A:** Oftentimes, patients perceived by clinicians as “drug seekers” are rather “relief seekers” of their undertreated pain instead. Indeed, a patient who makes a 1-time call for an early prescription refill is not likely drug seeking, nor is the patient who complains of an increasing lack of effect from a drug. Rather, the latter is likely a case of developing tolerance or progression of disease, requiring dose modification or drug rotation. In contrast, repeatedly creating elaborate stories about lost medications or stealing prescription scripts are indicative of drug seeking. A set of screening tools to assess the risk of drug misuse or abuse, such as the Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients in Pain (SOAPP) and the Current Opioid Misuse Measure (COMM), can be found at [www.painedu.com](http://www.painedu.com).

### ADDITIONAL READING

- Dworkin RH, Turk DC, Wyrwich KW, et al. Interpreting the clinical importance of treatment outcomes in chronic pain clinical trials: IMMPACT recommendations. *J Pain*. 2008;9:105-121.
- Dubinsky RM, Kabbani H, El-Chami Z, et al. Practice parameter: treatment of postherpetic neuralgia: an evidence-based report of the Quality Standards Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. *Neurology*. 2004;63:959-965.