

Dismantling the Barriers: Providing Palliative and Pain Care

By Kathleen Foley, MD

Kathleen Foley, MD, Dismantling the Barriers: Providing Palliative and Pain Care, 283 JAMA 115 (2000).

Dr. Kathleen Foley clearly capsulizes significant barriers preventing the medical profession from adequately controlling pain, not only for the dying patient but also for those with chronic illnesses. Foley cites a 1997 Institute of Medicine report, which contains seven recommendations for health care professionals to improve care for patients at the end of life. The report asks health care professionals to commit themselves to use existing knowledge of old and new therapies to reduce pain and manage symptoms in patients facing death.

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