The National Academies
Non-Pharmacological Approaches to Pain Management
Research to Address the Opioid Crisis

NIH HEAL Initiative

Compounds Research Long-term End
Therapies Prevention Opioid
Biomarkers Misuse Helping
Scientific Nonaddictive Pain

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NIH HEAL Initiative: Selected Priorities

**Opioid Use Disorder**

- Therapies for addiction & overdose
- Real-world implementation research to optimize interventions
- Evaluate treatments, consequences of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome

**Pain Management**

- Preclinical
- Clinical
- Implementation
Enhance targeting and reduce invasiveness of therapeutic devices for pain

Brain
Research through
Advancing
Innovative
Neurotechnologies

Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions
To improve quality, consistency, efficiency of early phase pain clinical trials

- HEAL Public Private Partnership data and asset sharing: test compounds and devices from industry, academia
- Incentivize, accelerate Phase II trials
- Focus on well-defined pain conditions with high-unmet need
- Incorporate biomarker studies
to probe mechanisms of back pain to develop and test integrated precision care

link structural, dynamic, cellular, molecular abnormalities to patient-reported symptoms and function
  • Characterize mechanisms and improve phenotyping
  • technology development for discovery, diagnostics, and treatment
  • Data integration and modeling

Clinical trials for non-addictive drugs, biologics, devices and complementary approaches
  • safety and efficacy trials
  • integrated care trials
  • mechanistic trials

Develop patient-centered algorithms to predict optimal treatment
  • data from across the consortium’s studies
HEAL – Proposed Pain Effectiveness Research Consortium

To inform patients and providers on best treatment practices for pain

Evaluate the effectiveness of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies for a broad array of pain conditions through phase 3 clinical trials

- Comparative Effectiveness Research Network through NCATs’ Trial Innovation Network
- Pain expertise in coordinating centers
- Coordinate data elements and storage with EPPIC and PRISM
To integrate interventions with demonstrated efficacy into health care systems and implement health care system change toward evidence-based pain management