

Letters to the editor

CHRONIC PAIN SUFFERERS



Regarding the article, "New pain clinic rules likely won't kick in for years": These rules governing pain clinics are big news, particularly here in Broward County, where your paper and many other media outlets have dubbed Broward County a "pill mill capital."

Unfortunately, chronic pain sufferers who are not educated on pain management might think their only hope is taking pills for the rest of their lives. This is not so. Interventional pain management, a practice that attacks pain from the site of origination, can offer tremendous relief to pain sufferers and is making huge strides in the fight against pain.

The World Institute of Pain, formed in 1993, has carefully monitored the pain care industry, providing insight into this growing field of medicine. I've had the pleasure and responsibility of testing physicians worldwide to be certain their skills are high, their techniques are above reproach, and their understanding of eradicating pain is current.

Pills, when used intelligently, are important in health care and medicine. For fighting pain, which is critical to daily life as the article showed, there are also other efficient, lasting, and sensible approaches.

Ira Fox, MD, co-founder, **Anesthesia Pain Care Consultants**, Tamarac