

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dr. Enck:

As usual, I'm behind in my journal reading, so am just getting to your editorial. I saw that you're going to deal with double effect—always a good idea. My concern about it is that many of the clinicians with whom I have worked rely on double effect inappropriately. That is, they make the same errors that you mention in your editorial (misunderstanding tolerance and the need for increased doses based on pain levels, etc). Subsequently, if a patient dies, they blame it on double effect rather than on advanced cancer, multi-organ system failure, or whatever the underlying condition, not understanding that death is, in fact, a respiratory depressant.

I hope the *Journal of Opioid Management* takes these factors into consideration when it addresses double effect.

Congratulations on the new journal,

Mimi Mahon, PhD, FAAN  
Senior Fellow

University of Pennsylvania Center for Bioethics  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Editor's note:* The answer is yes, and thank you for your letter.

Robert E. Enck, MD  
Editor-in-Chief

### *Call for Letters to the Editor*

The *Journal of Opioid Management* will consider for publication letters on subjects related to opioid therapy and pain management.

Letters responding to specific articles previously published in the *Journal* are especially welcome and encouraged. To ensure their timely publication, submit them as soon after the issue's distribution date as possible.

All letters should be typewritten and double-spaced; references should be limited to five whenever possible.

Please include your full name, job title, facility name, and address with all letters.

You may send your letter by mail, fax, or e-mail to:

Letters to the Editor  
*Journal of Opioid Management*  
470 Boston Post Road  
Weston, Massachusetts 02493

**Fax:** 781-899-4900

**E-mail:** [jom@pnpc.com](mailto:jom@pnpc.com)