20 Opioid-Related Questions Every Candidate Should Know
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Here are 20 questions that every candidate should be able to answer correctly. Voters can use these as a guide to grade the individuals.

1. What is the difference between physical dependence and addiction?
2. Can babies be born addicted to opioids?
3. When, and how, do most opioid use disorders begin?
4. What percent of opioid abusers get their drugs from family and friends rather than doctors?
5. What percentage of diverted prescription opioids drugs are involved in overdoses?
6. How many Americans have chronic pain?
7. How many people commit suicide annually due in part to chronic pain?
8. Does the candidate support the development of safer drugs such as abuse deterrent formulations?
9. What role has health insurance played in creating and maintaining the opioid crisis?
10. What percentage of opioid-associated overdoses involve illegal opioids?
11. What percentage of overdoses involve multiple drugs?
12. How often do benzodiazepines contribute to overdoses?
13. Do patient satisfaction surveys increase opioid prescribing?
14. Are opioids usually prescribed before most non opioid analgesics?
15. How does the cost of opioid addiction compare to the cost of chronic pain?
16. Can law enforcement solve the problem of addiction?
17. Does prescribing opioids after surgery usually lead to addiction?
18. Should payers be required to pay for abuse deterrent opioid formulations and other alternative pain treatments?
19. Has the Fifth Vital Sign contributed to the opioid Crisis?
20. Are prescription opioids a gateway drug?

Candidates must be able, and willing, to answer these questions by learning about the problem and adhering to the facts, rather than presenting rhetoric based on the political climate. I suggest that correctly answering 15 of the 20 questions is getting a passing grade. Anyone answering fewer questions correctly requires remedial lessons. In other words, we should pull our support from candidates until they have the knowledge to advance their grades.
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