

INTRODUCTION: In January 2009, the Vermont legislature passed a bill to improve the quality of and access to palliative care and pain management (PC/PM) resources in the state. As requested in this bill, and in collaboration with the Vermont Board of Medical Practice, we assessed various aspects of PC/PM among Vermont physicians. **METHODS:** We created and distributed 1810 surveys to VT-licensed physicians after reviewing the literature and other states' PC/PM requirements. We gathered responses by postal mail and online via SurveyMonkey®, with a collection time of 26 days. **RESULTS:** The 303 responses (17%) were representative of Vermont physician demographics. Over 75% of respondents answered PC/PM questions competently and felt confident dealing with multiple facets of PC/PM. Physicians were generally satisfied with the PC/PM their patients receive; however, 61% of physicians were unfamiliar with the Patients' Bill of Rights for PC/PM. Additionally, the largest reported barrier to PC was the belief systems of patients and their families. We also found that 50% of physicians strongly disagree that mandatory CME credits in PC/PM would improve quality of care, while only 18% strongly agreed. Nonetheless, physicians stated they would be most likely to utilize online modules and database/provider networks to access PC/PM information. **CONCLUSIONS:** Vermont physicians appear competent and confident in PC/PM and do not support mandatory PC/PM CME credits. Instead, Vermont should offer online educational modules and a PC/PM provider database, as well as address the lack of physician awareness of the Patients' Bill of Rights for PC/PM.