



DULUTH, Minn. (AP) Minnesota doctors say prescription drug abuse is a severe problem in the state and they often feel caught between patients who need pain medication and those who say they should do more to curb abuse.

A long-time state drug abuse safety officer, Carol Falkowski, told members of the Minnesota Medical Association on Thursday that prescription drug abuse now causes more deaths than motor vehicle accidents do. She says many patients will do almost anything to get drugs like OxyContin, including stealing them.

Many doctors at the meeting agreed abuse was a problem. But doctors also say they get blamed whether they prescribe the drugs or not. Dr. Paul Sanford says it's like waltzing in a mine field.