

PALTmed Texas Geriatrics Annual Conference 2025: *GERIATRICS: A Capitol Idea*
Session Objectives and Speaker Bio(s)

Speaker(s): Norberto Vargas, MD, CMD

Title: *Addiction Principles in Post-Acute Care Settings*

Saturday, August 2 from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm

Objectives:

1. Define addiction using ASAM and DSM-5 criteria.
2. Understand the ASAM placement criteria and their application to elderly populations.
3. Identify appropriate settings for addiction treatment in post-acute care and commonly used medications.
4. Review marijuana legislation in Texas including the Compassionate Use Program and Senate Bill 3.
5. Evaluate addiction-related case vignettes and discuss management strategies.

Dr. Norberto Vargas, M.D., CMD, is a distinguished physician specializing in Physical Medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R), Pain Medicine, Addiction Medicine, and Obesity Medicine, with a dedicated focus on post-acute care. With experience serving skilled nursing and long-term care facilities, Dr. Vargas delivers compassionate, comprehensive care designed to optimize recovery and improve the quality of life for each patient he serves. Dr. Vargas earned his medical degree from the esteemed Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico, followed by his residency at Baylor University Medical Center of Dallas, where he gained exceptional training in managing complex medical conditions. He is board-certified by several prestigious institutions, including the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Board of Addiction Medicine, the American Board of Pain Medicine, and the American Board of Obesity Medicine, underscoring his expertise and commitment to excellence in patient care. In skilled nursing and long-term care environments, Dr. Vargas utilizes advanced diagnostic and treatment techniques tailored specifically for post-acute patients. Additionally, Dr. Vargas is recognized as an expert in addiction medicine, providing vital support to patients dealing with substance use disorders involving alcohol, prescription medications, and illicit substances. His holistic, patient-centered approach emphasizes integrated care, addressing both physical and psychological aspects of addiction to foster meaningful, longterm recovery. A compassionate advocate for patient wellness, Dr. Vargas continuously contributes to enhancing care standards within the post-acute sector. His multifaceted expertise ensures that patients receive personalized, comprehensive treatment strategies, improving clinical outcomes and enhancing quality of life during their rehabilitation journey.