

Our Commitment to Fighting Opioid Abuse

Each day in nearly 10,000 communities across the country, CVS Health works to help people on their path to better health. As the opioid abuse crisis has grown worse, our entire company has gotten involved. Here is what we're doing to prevent and treat opioid abuse and to mitigate the effects of this epidemic on communities nationwide.



PREVENTING OPIOID MISUSE AND ABUSE

Ensuring that opioid medications are properly prescribed and used is the first and most effective action we can take to help end the opioid epidemic. CVS Health has developed programs designed to encourage the safe use of opioids, such as:

- **Limiting the dosage of opioids to avoid their misuse:** CVS Caremark, our PBM, was the first to implement a program to ensure that opioids are being prescribed and used appropriately, consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. The program:
 - Limits first fills for patients who are taking an opioid for the first time.
 - Limits the daily dosage of opioids dispensed based on the opioid's strength.
 - Requires the use of immediate-release formulations of opioids before extended-release opioids are dispensed.
- **Preventing abuse through education:** Our Pharmacists Teach program brings local pharmacists to schools to talk to students about their choices and the dangers of opioid abuse. As of February 2018, over 7,400 presentations have been delivered to nearly 350,000 students.
- **Identifying extreme prescribers:** CVS Health studies the volume and share of prescriptions for high-risk drugs to identify physicians who exhibit extreme patterns of prescribing. Those unable to provide justification are prevented from filling prescriptions at CVS Pharmacy, CVS Specialty, and CVS Caremark pharmacy locations.

KEEPING MEDICATIONS OUT OF THE WRONG HANDS

Proper disposal is critical to keeping opioids out of the wrong hands. In September 2017, CVS Health announced new measures to remove opioids from local communities:



- **Pharmacy Medication disposal boxes:** CVS Health is working to expand its Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Program to a total of 1,550 kiosks. CVS Health is now placing 750 additional disposal units in CVS Pharmacies.
- **Safer Communities Grants:** Working with the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, CVS Health has donated more than 800 medication disposal units to police departments in 43 states.
 - Over 120 metric tons of unwanted medication that could otherwise have been diverted, misused or abused has been collected and safely disposed of through this program in the past two years.

EXPANDING TREATMENT OPTIONS

Through our presence in communities across the country, CVS Health is uniquely positioned to provide those who are struggling with opioid addiction access treatment.



- **Expanding access to a lifesaving overdose antidote:** CVS Health has collaborated with 46 states to expand access to the opioid reversal drug naloxone and develop new protocols to allow pharmacists to dispense it under a standing order. This has helped caregivers, concerned loved ones, first responders and patients get naloxone more easily.
- **Community investment:** In support of addiction recovery efforts, the CVS Health Foundation is providing an additional \$2 million to Federally Qualified Health Centers to deliver medication-assisted treatment.

ADVOCATING FOR STRONG PUBLIC POLICY



Defeating the opioid crisis will require involvement from stakeholders across the health care system, and support from law enforcement and regulatory agencies. While CVS Health has developed and implemented numerous programs and initiatives to combat opioid abuse, another significant part of our commitment to addressing this epidemic involves advocating for effective policies to prevent and mitigate the crisis.

- **Cutting down on fraudulent prescriptions:** CVS Health supports legislation that requires e-prescribing for controlled substances to reduce the risk of fraudulent prescriptions. Seven states have already adopted e-prescribing requirements, and our advocacy efforts involve encouraging additional states to follow suit and requiring it in Medicare.
- **Limiting opioid supply for those at risk:** We also support states' efforts to institute 7-day limits on the quantity of opioids dispensed to patients who are receiving opioids for the first time, which is when they are at the greatest risk of developing an addiction. Limiting the supply of opioids also helps ensure the prescription fits the medical condition and encourages more frequent check-ins with prescribers.
- **Promoting information sharing across state lines:** Similarly, we support proposals that help pharmacies address misuse and abuse, such as strong, integrated Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), that when used effectively, can flag duplicate prescriptions filled by multiple doctors in different states.