Leading the opioid epidemic fight

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A national health crisis

46 people die each day from prescription opioid overdose¹

1.7M people suffer from substance abuse disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers²

$78.5B is the estimated yearly economic burden of the opioid crisis³

An aggressive response

• Nearly 1,400 safe medication disposal kiosks currently in 46 states and Washington, D.C.

• We have started offering take-home medication disposal kits upon request in Walgreens without a kiosk and are expecting to have them in all stores without a kiosk by end of spring 2019

1 million pounds of disposed medication collected to date


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Leading the opioid epidemic fight

Through programs designed to help ensure appropriate usage, facilitate safe disposal and increase awareness through education, Walgreens is leading the fight against the prescription opioid crisis that causes 46 overdose deaths every day in the U.S.1 In addition, 1.7 million people in the U.S. suffer from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers, leading to an estimated total economic burden of $78.5 billion yearly.2,3

Key considerations

Safe medication disposal program
- Walgreens has collected and safely disposed of more than 1 million pounds of medication
- Nearly 1,400 safe medication disposal kiosks installed at Walgreens across the country in 46 states and Washington, D.C., as of April 2019
- We have started offering take-home medication disposal kits upon patient request in Walgreens without a kiosk and are expecting to have them in all stores without a kiosk by end of spring 2019

Naloxone dispensing and education program
- The opioid antidote is available without a prescription in most states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico
- Narcan, an FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone, is in stock at all 9,500+ Walgreens nationwide
- Walgreens pharmacists provide training and instructional handouts on how to administer naloxone

Opioid supply management
- Walgreens pharmacists follow a long-standing Good Faith Dispensing policy when filling a controlled substance prescription
- Our policy assists Walgreens pharmacists in dispensing all controlled substances, including opioids, based on patient need and in consultation with prescribers when necessary

Pilot shows success in educating high-risk opioid patients
Working with a payer partner, Walgreens has created a program to provide personalized opioid education to patients at high risk for misuse or abuse. Our pharmacists educate patients on safe use, safe disposal and the importance of having naloxone on hand.

The pilot was associated with a fourfold increase in naloxone dispensing, consistent with the U.S. surgeon general's advisory recommending naloxone access for high-dose opioid utilizers.4

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Impact of Distributing an Opioid Safety Guide at Prescription Pick Up

Walgreens-PRIME-Florida Blue Collaboration


https://www.walgreens.com/images/adaptive/pharmacy/healthcenter/b2b/pdfs/4085-A_AMCP%20Fall18%20FL-WAG-Prime-Opioid%20ADA_TS.pdf
The intervention was associated with a 4-fold increase in odds of members using naloxone

The collaboration between a health insurer, PBM, and chain pharmacy to identify and educate high dose opioid utilizers at point-of-sale was impactful.
Methodology

• Objective: Assess the impact of distributing an opioid safety guide at prescription pick up.

• Intervention group:
  - FL Blue commercial members identified during a 3-month window (Apr-Jun ‘17)
  - Had high opioid and controlled substances utilization and filled most of their opioid claims at Florida Walgreens retail pharmacies.
  - Continuous Enrollment Pre/Post 180 day, N=753

• Control Group:
  - FL Blue commercial members identified during a 3-month window (Apr-Jun ‘17)
  - Had high opioid and controlled substances utilization and filled most of their opioid claims at Florida non-Walgreens retail pharmacies.
  - Continuous Enrollment Pre/Post 180 days, N=633