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Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee

Introduction:

Independent pharmacists are in a unique position to provide assistance and resources to address the opioid abuse crisis, particularly those that are located in underserved areas or near a medical or treatment facility. We have identified several RxPlus member pharmacists who participate by providing naloxone and suboxone, and work with patients, providers, and local authorities in a variety of ways. The following email is from one such pharmacist. She was invited to make a presentation to the Wyoming Pharmacy Association in June about her methods and work.

Letter from Opioid Misuse Participating Pharmacist:

> -----Original Message-----

> From: ebuxton@gooddaypharmacy.com [mailto:ebuxton@gooddaypharmacy.com]

> Sent: Friday, December 2, 2016 2:18 PM

> To: Brad Young

> Subject: naloxone program

>

> Good afternoon, Brad!

>

> I wanted to take a minute to update you on our Naloxone access
> program, we've been very busy!

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> We've worked with Lisa Raville at the Harm Reduction Coalition to get
> our name out there as having Naloxone available, gotten stickers for
> our windows at each of the pharmacies, and have reached out to NCAP
> and the Health Network, as well. Projects with each of these groups is
> ongoing.

>

> I am now certified by CSOC (County Sheriffs of Colorado) to train LEOs
> and other interested persons on how to recognize an overdose and
> administer Naloxone, as well as train their staffs to be trainers.

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> Kelsey Schwander, our Resident, has helped us develop an "Overdose
> Rescue Kit" that contains 2 doses of either IN or IM Naloxone, per our
> State protocol, along with administration directions, a printout of
> resources, gloves, a barrier valve mask for giving rescue breaths, and
> the nasal aspirators or syringes, as appropriate. She interned with
> Scales Pharmacy as a P4 and helped them develop their program, so
> we're enjoying having her expertise at hand. We've sold quite a few of these generic kits--the cost of
> the Naloxone is covered by most insurances, including Medicaid. The accessories kit
> ranges between \$10-\$25, depending on which dose form is chosen. Kelsey has

- > also attended NCAP meetings and a needle exchange day, to let people
- > know about or program.
- > She and I will be going to another NCAP meeting next week for
- > planning into the next year.

One stumbling block we've run into recently is the lack of availability of the nasal atomizer for the doses. As far as I know, there is only one manufacturer in the entire US. They were forced to recall their product last fall after multiple lots failed in the field, and none have since been released. This hampers our efforts to distribute cost-effective, non-injectible dose forms terribly. Most insurers have stepped up and are covering Narcan, the brand intranasal dose form, but it is still cost-prohibitive for those without any coverage. I'm not aware of any studies looking at alternate means of administration (under the tongue, perhaps?) so our choices have become that much more limited.

- >
- > I've also taken the initiative to start conversations with Weld and
- > Larimer County Sheriffs' departments and Loveland and Fort Collins's
- > Police Departments. The Chief of the Evans Sheriff's Department has
- > been actively--and successfully--pursuing funding to obtain Narcan brand
- > intranasal naloxone at public-interest pricing in enough quantity to
- > outfit each Weld County LEO with a dose pack. Loveland PD, Fort
- > Collins PD, and LCSO are each also looking at their purchase options
- > and training. Loveland PD, Fort Collins, PD, and LCSO officers can
- > also personally acquire Evzios through a program offered by Kaleo, the manufacturer of Evzio,
- > to carry for both themselves, and/or other officers--or their
- > canines, who are also at high risk of exposure during operations.
- > I've personally arranged almost 200 Evzio kits at zero copays
- > for these LEOs and other patients who wish to purchase them.
- > Kaleo is still offering copay support for commercial patients, as well
- > as full support for commercially insured patients for whom Evzio is
- > not a covered medication, at a zero copay, but it requires a few more hoops than earlier in the year.
- >

I know of several Departments whose officers have successfully used their naloxone units to reverse an overdose in citizens encountered during a call, so I'm happy to report that the efforts so many agencies and people have put into distributing naloxone are starting to have an effect.

> This Spring, Good Day Pharmacy also worked with the Timnath Police Department and Colorado State University's Police Department to supply their officers with Evzio units. The CSU collaboration led to my helping with their annual joint Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise held at the Foothills' Campus Biosafety Level 3 labs. Twenty-some departments took place in the exercise, including the Wyoming Army Reserve Civilian Support Team. Live (non-infectious/non-dispersible) agents were in use during the exercise, and the opportunity to see everything put into use was invaluable.

Earlier this summer, we started discussing Naloxone access with our local first responders. Most carry doses on their ambulance rigs, but the fire squads are often out in locations ahead of their support teams, and they also have an exposure risk. So, we've been looking at grants, copay programs, and manufacturer support programs to help supply them, as well. As a former researcher, I'm familiar with the grant writing requirements of several federal agencies. One pie-in-the-sky goal of mine is to

collaborate with local or country agencies to submit a grant to CDC to support an allocation for the region, but I've not yet had a chance to start the process.

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> So, we're trying to ensure as many people as possible know about our
> program, know about what options are available, and know who to come
> to when they're ready to take that step or have further questions!

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> Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns with which I can help.

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> Regards,

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> Liz

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Contact Brad Young, Government Affairs Director

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