



As NJSIAA’s executive director, I’m delighted our association is supporting the SOAP (Stop Opioid Abuse Program) initiative from Garden State Pharmacy Owners. This program has the specific goal of providing crucial information about the current, nationwide opioid painkiller abuse epidemic with scholastic student-athletes – a particularly vulnerable demographic. NJSIAA is proud to assist by sharing SOAP’s information with our member schools, beginning with this very first e-message. As someone who joins you in embracing scholastic sports, I strongly encourage you to pass this material along to your school’s student-athletes.

Steven J. Timko / Executive Director / NJSIAA

New Jersey, like the rest of the nation, is experiencing a terrible crisis of prescription opioid painkiller abuse. One group that’s been particularly susceptible to this epidemic is student-athletes – young people who, when they sustain injuries during practice or competition, are often prescribed significant supplies of opioid medication. That’s why my organization, [Garden State Pharmacy Owners](#), created the SOAP (Stop Opioid Abuse Program) initiative to help educate high school athletes, their parents and school administrators about the dangers of opioid abuse.

With the support of the NJSIAA’s communication network, GSPO will regularly share opioid-related information with the athletic directors of all member public, parochial, and private high schools throughout New Jersey. This is the first in an ongoing series of SOAP e-messages, and I ask that you please share it with your school’s student-athletes in whatever manner you feel will be most effective.

To get started, you’ll see we’ve included a trio of infographics created and shared with us by our friends at [Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey](#). These focus on some general information, as well as details more specific to scholastic sports.

Thank you for helping GSPO fight this growing problem and I look forward to future communication. I certainly welcome your comments or suggestions on how to strengthen this message for your student athletes.

Marty Miller, MBA, SPHR / Executive Director / Garden State Pharmacy Owners, Inc. (GSPO)

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[Prescription Opiates – Street Pharmaceuticals](#)

[“Before They Prescribe – You Decide”](#)

[Male athletes are more likely to be prescribed painkillers](#)