

## Pharmacy Implementation Stories

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### **Lincoln Pharmacy Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

When Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) approached Lincoln Pharmacy in early 2015 requesting help in fighting the opioid overdose epidemic, we immediately responded. A group of pharmacies met with ACHD to see how to best tackle this problem. Allegheny County had just approved a standing order for the Naloxone rescue kits. Our goal was to increase

the availability of naloxone in the community as a safe antidote for opioid overdose. ACHD had a protocol in place for the Pharmacist in Charge to follow. Laura A Schmidt, RPh, the PIC of Lincoln Pharmacy took an online CE certification called “Prescribe to Prevent.” Laura then put together Naloxone rescue kits and informational packets to help educate customers, caregivers, and the general public about opioids and Naloxone use. Because many overdose victims begin their addiction through prescribed oral pain killers and we are readily accessible to the public, we believe pharmacists can make a difference in combating the opioid epidemic. In our daily practice, pharmacists educate, do drug utilization reviews, and hand out informational materials. We can save lives.

### **Hayden’s Pharmacy Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania**

As of 2016, Westmoreland County is ranked the number one county in the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Heroin Overdoses and Deaths. Hayden’s Pharmacy, along with the Westmoreland County for Drug and Alcohol Commission, has partnered to combat this ever growing problem. Edward L. Christofano, R.Ph., President / CEO of Hayden’s Pharmacy has created a 2-hour community program entitled **“The New Backyard – Do You Know?”** which is an education seminar for the public about prescription drug abuse. This program is in simple layman terms that explains how drugs are misused, how chemical addiction works, and providing guidelines for safety measures on protecting prescription medications in patient’s homes. Hayden’s Pharmacy and the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission has provided over 1,500 prescription medication lock boxes or “Pill Pods” to the residences of Westmoreland County.



Along with his program, a training session on how to properly recognize a critical overdose situation and how to administer Narcan (naloxone) is held after the education session. Narcan kits are provided at the training sessions to the general public with completion of the course. “Without the education on addiction and prescription drug abuse, we are fighting a never ending battle. We need the general population to understand the problem and help make a difference” – *Ed Christofano, R.Ph.*

Hayden’s Pharmacy has also created a Standing Narcan School District policy to assist school board districts with the process of having Narcan (naloxone) available on all school district campuses. The education and training session is provided to all school board members, faculty, and school district parents to make the difference in communities. The more we have the **KNOWLEDGE** about this epidemic, the more **POWER** we will have to overcome it.

***More stories coming....***