



For Immediate Release

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Cordant Health Solutions Provides Naloxone with Opioid Prescriptions

SEATTLE, Aug 29, 2017 -- Specialized controlled substance pharmacies operated by Cordant Health Solutions are making the life-saving drug naloxone available to patients who are prescribed opioid pain medications.

According to preliminary data reported by The New York Times, opioid overdoses are now the leading cause of death in adults under 50 with overdose deaths in 2016 most likely exceeding 59,000 -- the largest annual jump ever recorded.

“What makes our naloxone program different is we work proactively with physicians who send their patients to our Cordant pharmacies to educate patients about the importance of having this lifesaving medication available when taking an opioid for pain management,” said Susan Sommer, president and CEO of Cordant. Our goal is for patients to overcome the stigma associated with it. Naloxone should be considered a safety precaution similar to having injectable epinephrine in the house to treat a severe allergic reaction.”

Available as an injectable or nasal-dosed agent, naloxone is easily administered during a known or suspected opioid overdose and reverses slowed breathing caused by an opioid overdose. In most cases naloxone restores normal breathing long enough for emergency medical personnel to arrive.

With three pharmacies, including a facility in Kirkland, Wash., filling more than 450 naloxone prescriptions, Cordant is emerging as a leader in providing naloxone to pain patients taking opioids.

“The data is really vague right now on how we compare to other pharmacies,” said Sommer. “One statistic shows nationwide in 2015, just 9200 Medicare claims were filed for naloxone, which is not the whole view of claims, but with roughly 62,000 pharmacies I think it shows we are successful in our approach.”

While the number of opioid overdose deaths in Washington is not as high as in other regions of the country, the numbers are growing. In 2015, data published by the Washington Department of Public Health showed that 287 people died in the state from overdoses of a prescription opioid which includes unintentional and undetermined deaths only. Deaths due to "morphine" with no other information are assumed to be heroin overdose deaths.

Fail-safe Prescription Control

Cordant's specialized controlled substances pharmacies also benefit doctors and pain patients by offering several checks to assure that prescriptions for pain medications are filled properly and delivered securely. In short, the patient never touches the prescription.

"Cordant picks up the prescription at the doctor's office or the doctor e-prescribes to the Cordant pharmacy. Then the pharmacist checks the state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) to learn if the patient is taking other medications that could cause serious drug interactions or overdoses, or if drugs are being obtained at multiple pharmacies or from multiple prescribers," said Vicki Seegar, pharmacy compliance officer of Cordant.

She added that once the prescription clears PDMP review, the medication is delivered to the patient at home or work. Patients do not have to spend time searching for a pharmacy that stocks narcotic analgesics. Cordant dispenses all the most commonly prescribed drugs for pain and ADHD, as well as other controlled substances and medications that are often prescribed in the treatment of patients with chronic pain.

Currently, Cordant pharmacies are located in Seattle, Denver and Indianapolis, with other sites scheduled to open in the next 12 months. The pharmacies are helping to minimize risk for illegal duplication or alteration of opioid prescriptions and to discourage doctor-and pharmacy-shopping behavior. They also offer uninterrupted access for patients who legitimately need opioid medications.

About Cordant

Based in Denver, Cordant Health Solutions™ is at the forefront of combating today's opioid epidemic through its network of toxicology laboratories and pharmacies. Cordant is committed to providing solutions for payers, clinicians and agencies involved with addiction, criminal justice and pain management. Cordant is one of the only healthcare companies that not only offers innovative drug testing options but also includes a full-service, high-touch pharmacy that specializes in complex management and dispensing of controlled substances. Cordant provides testing protocols and digital case-management tools to help customers become more efficient and effective in using toxicology test results.

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