



McKesson Responds to State Attorneys General Investigation of U.S. Opioid Epidemic

San Francisco, CA, September 19, 2017 — Today, a group of Attorneys General announced a multistate investigation into the role of pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors in our nation's opioid epidemic. McKesson agrees that the opioid epidemic is a national public health crisis and plans to cooperate fully with the investigation.

As a pharmaceutical distributor, McKesson operates as one component within the pharmaceutical supply chain, which also includes drug manufacturers, regulatory bodies like the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state pharmacy boards, payers, prescribing doctors and dispensing pharmacists. The company distributes medications provided by pharmaceutical manufacturers—including opioid medications—that are ordered by healthcare entities (such as pharmacies, hospitals, clinics or nursing facilities) that are licensed by the DEA and state regulatory authorities, and only for prescriptions that are written by medical professionals registered by the DEA and licensed by state medical boards to prescribe these medications. McKesson takes seriously its role in helping to protect the safety and integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain.

To that end, McKesson is committed to maintaining—and continuously improving—strong programs designed to detect and prevent opioid diversion within the pharmaceutical supply chain. Over the past decade, as the epidemic evolved rapidly, the company worked to strengthen its teams, processes and technologies dedicated to preventing diversion while simultaneously protecting the availability of appropriate treatments to patients with serious illnesses and injuries. In addition to reporting all controlled substances transactions to the DEA on a regular basis, McKesson's Controlled Substance Monitoring Program (CSMP) is designed to monitor for suspicious orders, block the shipment of controlled substances to pharmacies when certain thresholds are reached, report suspicious orders to the DEA and educate our customers on identifying opioid abuse. McKesson is dedicated to ongoing enhancements to that program.

In 2015, McKesson initiated the creation of a task force of McKesson experts, including clinicians, to further study the opioid issue and its challenges. The group proactively developed a policy paper, "[Combating the Opioid Abuse Epidemic: A Shared Responsibility that Requires Innovative Solutions](#)," which includes policy recommendations to improve prescribing and dispensing practices to help curb the opioid epidemic. McKesson has shared these recommendations with federal and state elected officials and other stakeholders across the healthcare supply chain, and is eager to support other innovative efforts to tackle this challenging issue.

Learn more about how McKesson is fighting opioid abuse here: www.mckesson.com/fightingopioidabuse.

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