



NCPA Offers Comments on Drug Chain Security Act

NCPA has submitted comments to the FDA on the draft guidelines on the DSCSA. The DSCSA outlines steps to build an electronic, interoperable system to identify and trace certain prescription drugs as they are distributed in the United States. NCPA's comments focus on dispenser-to-dispenser transactions, asking the FDA to clarify with state entities that a dispenser is not required under the law to obtain a wholesaler license when transactions between dispensers are for a specific patient need. NCPA continues to monitor the FDA's implementation of the DSCSA to ensure that dispensers can continue to provide care for their patients and safeguard patients' access to medication.



Letter Suggests Ways to Address Opioid Crisis

NCPA sent a letter to the leadership of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions with eight recommendations for addressing the nation's opioid crisis. In the letter, addressed to committee chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and ranking member Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), NCPA made suggestions such as expand consumer access to naloxone and increase health care provider education.

Required Reading...

"Throughout the past year, and without much fanfare, Amazon, Inc., has gained approval to become a wholesale distributor from a number of state pharmaceutical boards ... It's unclear, though, whether the regulatory filings support speculation that the e-commerce giant is planning a move into the prescription drug delivery business, territory currently dominated by a handful of companies."

Amazon Gains Wholesale Pharmacy Licenses in Multiple States, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Oct. 27, 2017*

"That's \$7,000 that the patients in my pharmacy are giving back to the pharmacy benefit manager that they could use for other things—for other medications, for other needs that they have."

Could Your Health Insurance Be Costing You Money at the Pharmacy?, *NBCNews.com, Oct. 17, 2017*

"A federal survey finds misuse of prescription opioids peaked in 2012 and has returned to 2002 levels. Suspension orders were already being dialed back — 41 in 2012, 16 in 2013 — before Congress intervened."

Did the Washington Post Overplay Its Opioid Story Because It Spent So Much Money On It?, *Wall Street Journal, Oct. 20, 2017*

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