

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HEROIN, OPIOIDS, AND PAIN EFFORTS (HOPE COMMITTEE)

October Newsletter

INDIAN HEALTH CARE: ENSURING A COORDINATED, HOLISTIC RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC



October is American Pharmacist Month!

Do you know of a pharmacist or group of pharmacists that are supporting MAT initiatives or expanding access to naloxone? Contact [The HOPE Committee](#) to share their [story!](#)

Salt River Providers: Train Community Members on Naloxone Use

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) makes opioid safety a priority by increasing access to naloxone throughout the community, monitoring opioid use with a multi-disciplinary committee and educating community members about overdose prevention during local events. Providers and community employees are working with tribal leadership on many fronts to get naloxone in the hands of community members and to stomp out opioid overdoses.

In January 2020, SRPMIC held a StrongLife health screening and education event which included an intranasal naloxone training session. Clinic staff successfully trained over 450 adults and children on the proper use of naloxone and dispensed over 280 intranasal naloxone kits. Utilizing a group discussion model, participants received a free naloxone kit upon entering the room and signing in. A brief [video](#) on how to use intranasal naloxone was shown and participants were encouraged to open their naloxone kit and become familiar with the device as the video proceeded. Following the video, the trainers provided an in-person naloxone demonstration, answered questions, and quizzed participants on what they learned. This informal quiz session allowed participants to “teach-back” key principles of appropriate naloxone use.

Other efforts to increase naloxone access through the SRPMIC include:

- Mandatory naloxone co-prescribing through a collaborative practice agreement for all opioid recipients since 2016
- Tribal Council engagement with formal intranasal naloxone use demonstrations
- Community engagement initiatives such as seminars, workshops and health fairs focusing on naloxone demonstrations and dispensing of naloxone kits
- Spearheading the local "Not One More" campaign which provides education and training on naloxone to community members with the platform of: “we refuse to lose one more community member to overdose.” This campaign utilizes guidelines provided by the [HOPE Committee](#) and Pharmacist Opioid Overdose Response Training (POORT) Initiatives

For additional information regarding expanding naloxone access in your area, please contact your IHS Area [Naloxone Mentor](#) and visit the HOPE Committee’s [Opioids](#) website where their [Naloxone Toolkit](#) is available.

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For more information,
visit our: OPIOIDS and
Pain Management
websites

Harm Reduction Strategies:

Harm Reduction describes a proactive approach to reduce the harm that may come from substance use and high-risk sexual behaviors. It employs individual and community-based safety practices aimed to improve the overall health and wellness of the entire affected population through acceptance instead of abstinence. Early access to prescribed MAT can be considered a harm reduction strategy. Initiating MAT therapy and providing other medications to manage acute withdrawal symptoms can potentially reduce return to use while patients are awaiting referral for treatment. Learn more about [medical management of withdrawal symptoms](#), establishing protocols for managing acute opioid withdrawal in the [Emergency Department](#), and [expanding access to MAT as a harm reduction strategy](#). And don't forget the [naloxone](#)!

- Visit the HOPE Committee's [naloxone](#) and [harm reduction](#) websites for more information.

Community Opioid Intervention Pilot Project:

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2021 Community Opioid Intervention Pilot Project (COIPP), administered by the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services/Division of Behavioral Health, is now available and published in the [Federal Register](#). The deadline to apply is December 15, 2020. The purpose of this IHS grant is to address the opioid crisis in AI/AN communities by developing and expanding community education and awareness of prevention, treatment and/or recovery activities for opioid misuse and opioid use disorder. The intent is to increase knowledge and use of culturally appropriate interventions and to encourage an increased use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). For more information, please visit the HOPE Committee's [Funding](#) webpage.

How IHS is Supporting HOPE

for Patients Affected by Heroin, Opioids and Chronic Pain



The IHS [HOPE Committee](#) developed an [Opioid Information Sheet](#) that provides an infographic display of the Agency strategy, hosts links to resources and shares key metrics. The slipsheet focuses on five key strategies to increase access to safe and effective long-term chronic pain treatment, improve access to culturally appropriate care and reduce overdose deaths from heroin and prescription opioid misuse.

The IHS Opioid Strategy aims to improve perceptions and beliefs associated with substance use by promoting an appropriate, sensitive, and sympathetic message among health systems and the communities we serve. We are working to eliminate stigma and encourage positive patient outcomes through appropriate and effective pain management, reducing overdose deaths from heroin and prescription opioid misuse, and improving access to culturally appropriate treatment. The IHS actively coordinates, collaborates, and participates in listening sessions, formal consultations, and community roundtables to ensure HOPE Committee work is relevant to tribal communities.

- Visit the HOPE Committee's [Opioids](#) and [Pain Management](#) websites to view additional resources.

Prevention Video:

A new video was released, titled "[Preventing and Treating Opioid Addiction in Tribal Communities](#)." Protecting families and communities starts with prevention. Listen to what you can do in your community to support those suffering from OUD.

HOPE Committee's Pain & Opioid Use Disorder Webinar Series:

Initiating Buprenorphine in the Acute Care Setting: Treating OUD in the Emergency Department (ED), Should it be a Choice?
This presentation will be discussing an innovative solution for increasing access to Medications for OUD through the ED. Our presenters are subject matter experts from Yale University and published authors on the topic of ED initiated buprenorphine treatment. Please join us in this discussion as we explore the impact of ED healthcare professionals on the opioid epidemic.

Thursday, Nov 12th at 1400 CST

[Registration Details](#)