

NATIONAL
Rx DRUG ABUSE & HEROIN
SUMMIT
NationalRxDrugAbuseSummit.org

The largest national collaboration for those impacted by Rx drug abuse & heroin use.

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Summit Spotlight:

[Now accepting presentation proposals for 2017 Summit](#)

Presentation proposals for the 6th Annual **National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit**, to be held **April 17-20, 2017**, at The Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia, are being **accepted now through Friday, August 5, 2016**.

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[Registration for the 2017 Summit is now available](#)

Registration is now being accepted for the 6th Annual **National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit**, to be held **April 17-20, 2017**, at The Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia.

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The online evaluation process is now available for attendees of the 2016 National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit. To complete your electronic evaluation and print your own statements of completion visit cmeuniversity.com. For details or to download an instruction sheet click on the button below. This process must be completed by **May 31, 2016**.

[Learn More](#)

Top Stories in the News:

Disclaimer: Articles and links within articles do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit or Operation UNITE.

[Treating the tiniest opioid patients](#)

National Public Radio

In March, National Public Radio produced a special four-part series about the number of babies being born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. The stories were a collaboration of NPR's National and Science Desks, local member stations, and Kaiser Health News.

[Read Story](#)

[Health insurance companies step up to fight the opioid epidemic](#)

GANT News (CNN News affiliate)

The latest fighters in the opioid addiction epidemic aren't addicts-turned-activists, cops or even addiction counselors. They are health insurance companies. Cigna, which insures about 14 million Americans, has become the latest major health insurance company to take measures to combat the staggering opioid addiction numbers and deaths, targeting what many feel is feeding the problem: overprescribing of prescription painkillers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and morphine. Companies such as Aetna and Blue Cross Blue Shield have taken similar measures over the past several years to prevent deaths and keep addiction numbers from going up. It also makes good business sense: One researcher points out that the cost to public and private insurance companies of prescription painkiller abuse, treatment and "diversion" (when patients sell the medication instead of taking it) is an estimated \$72.5 billion a year.

[Read Story](#)

[Ending the epidemic: A nationwide call for help](#)

Jason Dennis, WTVM, Georgia

This comprehensive and in-depth series about the opioid crisis features comments from experts and advocates from across the country, including a number of presenters the **2016 National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit**.

- Part 1: Pill Mills
- Part 2: Tragedy in action
- Part 3: From the brink of death, Naloxone
- Part 4: What's being done? - state and community levels
- Part 5: The President's plan

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[DEA will decide whether to change course on marijuana by July](#)

Christopher Ingraham, *The Washington Post*

In a lengthy memo to lawmakers, the Drug Enforcement Administration said it hopes to decide whether to change the federal status of marijuana "in the first half of 2016." Marijuana is currently listed under the Controlled Substances Act as a Schedule 1 drug, meaning that for the purposes of federal law, the drug has "no medical use and a high potential for abuse" and is one of "the most dangerous drugs of all the drug schedules with potentially severe psychological or physical dependence." Marijuana shares Schedule 1 status with heroin, and it is more strictly regulated than the powerful prescription painkillers that have killed more than 165,000 people since 1999.

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