

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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[Registrations being taken for 2017 Summit](#)

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Top Stories in the News:

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[Study: States with PDMPs saw 30% reduction in opioid prescribing](#)

Maggie Fox, NBC News

One possible way to help control the growing epidemic of opioid abuse is to keep an eye on doctors, a new study suggests. States that began keeping track of pain prescriptions - and the doctors who wrote them - saw a 30 percent decrease in the

rate of prescriptions for opioids and other controlled substances, the researchers report in the journal [Health Affairs](#).

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[Health insurers increase scrutiny of opioid prescription approvals](#)

Bruce Japsen, Forbes

Health insurance companies say they are ratcheting up scrutiny of physician prescribing and health plan enrollee use of opioids and other medicines that can lead to addiction. Several insurers are launching new programs that encourage an evidence-based approach to substance abuse treatment or installing better monitors of populations of patients at risk for potential abuse amid the nation's opioid crisis. Among the companies developing new lines of attack or enhancing existing programs in the battle against opioid abuse include Anthem, Cigna, CVS Health, Express Scripts and United Health Group's OptumRx pharmacy benefit management unit.

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[Fired hospital worker's case points to a trail of stolen drugs and thousands of patients at risk](#)

Rick Anderson, Los Angeles Times

When a surgical technician named Rocky Elbert Allen was accused in February of stealing drugs from a Denver-area hospital, it was the sort of news that ended up in a police blotter. But as investigators began combing through the 28-year-old former Navy operating-room tech's past, they say, what emerged was a startling, five-year trail of inside drug thefts at hospitals across the West, the story of a man who was fired repeatedly yet was somehow able to talk his way back into employment - and, authorities say, more drugs.

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[Pennsylvania coroner: Heroin deaths are now homicides](#)

Arden Dier, Fox News Health

There were two dozen drug overdose deaths in Pennsylvania's Lycoming County last year-each labeled accidental. Then coroner Charles Kiessling had to pronounce his friend's son dead from a heroin overdose, though he'd promised the victim's mother he'd talk to him about overcoming his addiction. "This hit me very personally," he tells PennLive. In March, Kiessling announced he'll classify all overdose deaths as homicide -- meaning death at the hands of another-unless involving drugs for which the deceased had a prescription.

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