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# Walgreens Leads Fight Against Prescription Drug Abuse with New Programs to Help Curb Misuse of Medications and the Rise in Overdose Deaths

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## Our Two-Part Program to Combat Drug Abuse:

### 1. Combating Drug Diversion

- Walgreens will install safe medication disposal kiosks in more than 500 drugstores across the country
  - The safe medication disposal kiosks allow individuals to safely and conveniently dispose of their unwanted, unused or expired prescriptions, including controlled substances and over-the-counter medications, at no cost.
  - The kiosks at Walgreens pharmacies will be available during regular pharmacy hours (24 hours a day at most of these locations).
  - Safe medication disposal kiosks are currently available in select Walgreens stores across 8 states and installation is continuing on a state-by-state basis. It is expected to be completed at more than 500 Walgreens locations this year.

### 2. Preventing Overdose Deaths

- Walgreens is making naloxone, a potentially lifesaving opioid antidote, available without requiring a prescription at its pharmacies in 35 states and Washington, D.C., rolling out the program state-by-state throughout this year in accordance with state pharmacy regulations.
  - Currently naloxone is available without a prescription in more than 1600 pharmacies across 10 states.
  - When implementation of the program is complete, naloxone will be available without a prescription in more than 5,800 of Walgreens nearly 8,200 stores.
  - In states where a prescription is required, Walgreens is available and eager to work with regulators to help update rules to allow for dispensing of naloxone without a prescription.

#### A Continuing Public Health and Safety Risk

- According to the 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 6.5 million Americans misused a prescription drug in 2014.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a total of 47,055 drug overdose deaths, which include prescription and illicit drugs, during the same year.
- That is a 6.5 percent increase from 2013 and a 140 percent increase since 2000.
- Most people who misuse prescription drugs first obtain them from a family member or friend, often from a home medicine cabinet.