

#### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE \* DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION

# **Diversion Enforcement News**

## DEA and HHS Issue Joint Letter on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

On March 8, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services issued a joint letter on the access to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), especially in rural and underserved areas where treatment options have been limited.

Following the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act in 2023, there was an immediate and significant increase in the number of practitioners who can prescribe schedule II MOUD products, such as buprenorphine combination medications containing buprenorphine and naloxone, for patients with OUD.



DEA supports collaboration amongst all DEA registrants to ensure there is an adequate and uninterrupted supply of MOUD products when these products are appropriately subscribed.

Read the letter and learn more about the latest on MOUD regulations.

### DEA Leaders Address Prescription Drug Misuse, the Opioid Crisis, and Drug Shortages at Conferences Worldwide

In March, **DEA Diversion Control Division Assistant Administrator Thomas Prevoznik and Deputy Assistant Administrator Matthew Strait** addressed hundreds of law enforcement professionals and DEA registrants across the world.

At the World Police Summit in Dubai, DAA Strait delivered a keynote address on lessons learned regarding prescription drug misuse and its influence on the opioid crisis. He highlighted



similar trends in the prescribing of prescription stimulants in the United States and efforts to address the growing threat.



The summit hosts a global meeting place for police and law enforcement professionals to come together. The event provides for the exchange of ideas and debates on the most pressing issues facing law enforcement worldwide.

More than 20,000 law enforcement, security, and policing professionals from around the world attended the World Police Summit in Dubai March 5-7, 2024.

On March 12, DEA Assistant Administrator Thomas Prevoznik presented at the Health Distribution Alliance Conference in Palm Desert, California.

He addressed hot topics in controlled substances regulations and stimulant drug shortages to the more than 500 pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors, and consultants at the conference.

The conference is one of the industry's largest gatherings of distribution industry professionals, and covers topics related to the healthcare supply chain and provides a forum to engage in operational and strategic discussions.



#### DEA Diversion Control to Host Supply Chain Conference Register today!

DEA is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Supply Chain Conference both virtually and in-person May 2-4, 2024 in Little Rock, Arkansas. DEA-registered manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, importers, and exporters will have the opportunity to meet, share information, and discuss concerns.

The conference provides a venue in which representatives from the supply chain industry, their affiliated associations, and DEA can engage in discussions concerning existing federal regulations, issues requiring regulatory changes, clarification of DEA policy, and the development of initiatives to reduce diversion of pharmaceutical controlled substances while ensuring an adequate and uninterrupted supply.

A complete agenda and registration information is available here.

## **DEA Take Back Day Partner Resources Available**

To gear up for DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on **Saturday, April 27, 2024**, a <u>partner toolbox</u> is available that includes posters, pamphlets, banners, and other advertising resources.



On Take Back Day, communities across the country can drop off unneeded, unwanted, and old medications at locations in their area. Stay tuned for the latest information on <u>https://www.dea.gov/takebackday</u> on locations near you and ways you can make a difference to prevent drug misuse before it starts.



**DEA's Diversion Control Division** strives to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources. When the safety and health of the American people is in jeopardy, DEA takes action against those who violate the law.

Chemical Importer to Pay \$300,000 in Civil Penalties for Alleged Violations of the Controlled Substances Act March 25, 2024

Philadelphia Pharmacy Criminal Pleas and Civil Resolutions Result in Multiple Criminal Convictions and Over \$4 Million Recovered March 20, 2024

East Bay Doctor Sentenced to Prison for Distributing Opioids Outside the Scope of Medical Practice

March 18, 2024

**St. Louis Area Pediatrician Indicted, Accused of Exchanging Prescriptions for Sex Acts** March 14, 2024

**Psychiatrist Sentenced to 48 Months for Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances** March 5, 2024

Nurse Practitioner Sentenced to 70 Months for Unlawful Drug Distribution March 1, 2024

Read the latest on these enforcement cases and civil actions.



Want to keep up with the latest drug diversion news? <u>Sign up</u> for Twitter/X alerts and look for us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram.

#### **News Updates**

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