

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPA, FBI LEEDA and Purdue Pharma L.P. Join Forces to Fight Pharmacy Crime

NCPA Declares April 14-18 "Protect Your Pharmacy Week"

Alexandria, Va. (April 1, 2008) — Today, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), FBI LEEDA (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association) and Purdue Pharma L.P. announced a partnership to combat pharmacy crime by improving pharmacy safety and security. The partners declared the week of April 14-18 as "Protect Your Pharmacy Week" and encouraged pharmacists in all practice settings to take steps to protect staff and patients from pharmacy crime, including prescription drug theft. NCPA members will receive a free "Protect Your Pharmacy Now" toolkit with resources to assist them in improving pharmacy security.

"Community pharmacists can use the materials provided not only to help law enforcement apprehend pharmacy robbers, but to gain access to important information on robbery trends and patterns that will help reduce their vulnerability to theft," said Bruce Roberts, R.Ph., executive vice president and CEO of NCPA. "By making this information available to pharmacists, we hope to reduce the number of pharmacy thefts across the country."

The "Protect Your Pharmacy Now" toolkit will include a window poster, decal, and a free RxPATROL® training DVD on pharmacy crime. NCPA members will also receive information on discounts on closed-circuit TV cameras, recorders, and surveillance equipment along with safety and security tips from law enforcement professionals. The Community Pharmacy Foundation is helping to support the toolkit through an unrestricted grant.

With a renewed national spotlight on prescription drug abuse, it is important to note the related issue of pharmacy crime. Despite the fact that the theft of controlled substances is a federal offense punishable by 20 years in prison, there are indications that robberies, burglaries, fraud and other types of diversion to obtain controlled substances in our nation's pharmacies is on the rise. It is estimated that prescription drug crime is the source of between 25-30 percent of the country's drug problem, according to statistics from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI).

RxPATROL® (Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies and Other Losses) is a collaborative effort between the pharmaceutical industry, pharmacy community and law enforcement to collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate pharmacy theft information to pharmacists, loss prevention professionals, and law enforcement agencies. Launched in 2003 by NCPA, NADDI, and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), and Purdue, RxPATROL® helps protect the pharmacy environment and ensure legitimate patients' access to life-sustaining medicines. Collaborating with Crime Stoppers and other anti-crime organizations across the country further enhances RxPATROL®'s efforts to disseminate pharmacy crime information

with public alerts and cash rewards to help law enforcement identify and apprehend pharmacy crime suspects.

Purdue Pharma L.P. and its associated U.S. companies are privately-held pharmaceutical companies known for pioneering research on persistent pain. Headquartered in Stamford, CT, Purdue is engaged in the research, development, production, and distribution of both prescription and over-the-counter medicines and hospital products. Additional information about Purdue can be found at www.purduepharma.com.

"We are proud to support the efforts of NCPA and our other RxPatrol partners in working to combat pharmacy crime and make pharmacists, their employees and their customers safer," said Aaron Graham, CIO and VP of Corporate Security at Purdue Pharma L.P.

FBI LEEDA is an FBI Executive Training Program for national and international law enforcement executives who transmit RxPATROL® alerts on a daily basis to FBI LEEDA members across the United States.

"FBI - LEEDA and its membership are extremely pleased to be a part of this initiative to combat pharmacy crime," said Tom Stone, Executive Director, FBI - LEEDA, Inc. "We are proud of our partnership with Purdue Pharma L.P., whose innovative programs provide tremendous assistance to law enforcement. And we are excited that NCPA is joining with Purdue Pharma L.P. to enhance this valuable awareness program."

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) represents the nation's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 23,000 pharmacies. The nation's independent pharmacies, independent pharmacy franchises, and independent chains represent an \$84 billion marketplace, employ over 300,000 employees and dispense nearly half of the nation's retail prescription medicines.

Other RxPATROL® partners include:

National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) is the leading professional organization whose members are responsible for investigating and prosecuting pharmaceutical drug diversion, helped to introduce RxPATROL®. RxPATROL® pharmacy crime alerts are routinely disseminated to more than 2,500 NADDI members on the organization's listserv.

Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI) is an organization focused on enhancing supply chain security through the prevention of diversion and counterfeiting, is another founding partner of RxPATROL®.

Crime Stoppers is a decentralized network of community anti-crime programs working in partnership with the media to provide crime-solving assistance to law enforcement. A cash reward is usually offered to anonymous persons who telephone the Crime Stoppers hot line with information which leads to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for felony offenses (e.g., pharmacy crimes).

Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA), which represents the nation's primary, full-service healthcare distributors, developed a process allowing its members to report incidents of any type of theft to RxPATROL® and receive security reports to help protect their pharmacies from theft.

Pharmacists Mutual, one of the largest pharmacy insurance providers in America, has mandated that all pharmacy claims of theft must be reported to RxPATROL® (with proof of submission verified) before their claims will be settled.

Smith Drug Company, a leading wholesale drug distributor in the southeastern United States, is partnering with Purdue by providing matching grants to double the amount of the award offered for information that can help solve pharmacy crime affecting their pharmacy customers.

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