

IMPACTING OPIOID DISPENSING AND PATIENT USE OUTCOMES WITH PACKAGING

Need – Prescription opioid misuse is a leading cause of adult accidental death in the U.S. and is considered a national epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The FDA recognizes that innovative designs for opioid packaging and storage systems have the potential to prevent or deter misuse, but there is little research on the effects of opioid packaging as an intervention within the opioid class.



Vision – Our project seeks to enhance the FDA’s understanding of how current packaging features impact the continuum of opioid misuse and abuse, and to identify which future studies could be undertaken to support a packaging solution capable of preventing and deterring misuse of opioids.

Research – Through a two-year clinical trial with proposed Opioid Packaging Prototype, our research will rigorously evaluate how packaging can inform an “engineering strategy” to enhance prescriber safeguards and patient safety.

Impact – This significant study will inform the FDA science community of whether the OPP is effective in preventing and/or deterring opioid misuse without diminishing access for patients with legitimate prescriptions, ensuring consistent access to critical medication information related to the dispensed opioid, and preventing and/or deterring use or theft of the medication by someone for whom it was not prescribed.



Who We Are: The UConn Department of Pharmacy Practice focuses on the optimization of medication safety and efficacy through enhanced pharmacy services and tools. For more information, please contact Dr. Nathan Rickles at nathaniel.rickles@uconn.edu

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