PURPOSE OF THE HARM REDUCTION PROJECT

Over the past two decades the prevalence of opioid substance use disorder has been rising steadily. The problem is not a single-faceted one, nor did it spin out of control overnight. The harsh reality is individuals from all walks of life have experienced the devastating impact of this epidemic. As pharmacy leaders in your community, you see this devastation firsthand.

This past year, NCAP has been developing proactive, streamlined opioid-related programs and resources for all North Carolina pharmacists. The community pharmacist is the most accessible healthcare advocate across our state. We are thankful for the care that you provide; and one of the messages that I constantly preach to nonpharmacy stakeholders is that pharmacists are highly educated but tremendously underutilized.

NCAP is seeking community pharmacies to participate in a quality assurance and quality improvement program in three areas related to patient care and opioid dispensing. We are asking pharmacy teams to address:

1. CDC Guidelines for Opioid Dispensing
2. Syringe Sales
3. Naloxone Dispensing

To truly be able to make a dent in this opioid problem, we have got to think out-of-the-box and generate new models of care in order to give our society a chance at a real solution. The Harm Reduction Project wants to show that pharmacists can make a huge difference in the opioid space.