

FDA Statement in Support of the 2013 National Drug Control Strategy

4/24/2013

The FDA supports the efforts of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and its vital role of leading the effort to coordinate the government-wide public health and safety approach to reducing drug use and its consequences.

As one of several public health agencies involved in addressing the drug abuse epidemic in the United States, the FDA is extremely concerned about the inappropriate use of prescription drugs. The Administration's [2013 National Drug Control Strategy](#) is the critical blueprint for this effort aimed at preventing drug abuse and misuse, which is a major public health challenge for our nation. We are encouraged by the scientific, research-focused, and evidence-based approach to the plan. One important step towards the goal of creating safer opioids, which is a high public health priority for the FDA, is to encourage the development of formulations of these drugs that deter abuse. We believe that these products have promise to help reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse.

We agree that our nation's front-line healthcare professionals play a vital role in efforts to reduce the abuse and misuse of opioids. The FDA believes it is critically important to ensure that prescribers have adequate training in opioid therapy; know the content of the most current drug labels; and educate patients about the appropriate use of prescription drugs, their potential risks, and proper disposal techniques.

We continue to support mandatory training of prescribers and hope to see passage of necessary legislation to support this goal.