

# Medical News

## Fighting The Opioid Epidemic

(NAPSA)—According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), health care professionals could save more than 130 lives lost to the opioid epidemic each day.

How? With a deeper understanding of pain, pain medication and addiction, especially related to opioids. Communities rural and urban are witnessing a growing and deadly phenomenon, while health care providers feel caught between prescribing guidelines and patients' needs.



**The opioid epidemic in the U.S. is staggering, but health care professionals are learning to better manage patients with pain.**

To address this issue, doctors, nurses, dentists, physician assistants, pharmacists and other clinicians can take courses from CME Outfitters and USF Health, supported by an educational grant from Johnson & Johnson, that provide strategies for how and when to prescribe opioids, better understand the biologic underpinnings of pain and addiction, and look at targeted, effective and safe treatment alternatives.

Fighting the opioid epidemic in our communities goes beyond educating the health care professionals who prescribe opioids to educating patients as well. If you are prescribed an opioid:

- Make sure you understand your treatment and what to expect
- Learn how to safely dispose of unused medication
- Understand how to help loved ones struggling with addiction
- Know what lifesaving measures you can take in case of an overdose.

Learn more at [www.cmeoutfitters.com/rx4pain](http://www.cmeoutfitters.com/rx4pain).