



For Immediate Release

RxPATROL INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO PREVENT PHARMACY THEFT

Effort Will Help Improve Pharmacy Security and Identify Pharmacy Robbers

Annapolis, MD - June 18, 2003 – In an effort to combat the theft and illegal trafficking of prescription medications, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI), and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI) are launching RxPATROL™, an information clearinghouse designed to collect, analyze and share information on pharmacy robberies, burglaries and theft of controlled substances. RxPATROL (Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies and Other Losses) is intended to help protect pharmacists, guard against potential robberies and burglaries, and assist law enforcement efforts to apprehend and prosecute pharmacy robbers. RxPATROL was conceived, developed and funded by Purdue Pharma L.P., a pharmaceutical company based in Stamford, CT.

RxPATROL allows pharmacy personnel to quickly and easily complete and submit a comprehensive theft report to a secure Internet web site. The report form is designed to capture a wide range of relevant information; from crime type (e.g., robbery, burglary or fraud) to suspect description, modus operandi and security resources in place to deter theft, such as closed circuit cameras, guards, alarms, reinforced doors and locks, etc.

Using a state-of-the-art software program utilized by government intelligence agencies, RxPATROL will collect, collate and analyze information from pharmacy theft reports across the country. The data and analyses, which can incorporate streaming video and closed circuit television photos, will be disseminated to law enforcement agencies for action as they deem appropriate. Additionally, RxPATROL will conduct a vulnerability assessment using the information gathered on pharmacy theft patterns to create a profile of pharmacies most likely to be victimized and why, as well as what physical security systems (e.g., alarms, closed circuit television cameras, public monitors, reinforced doors, etc.) are most effective in deterring burglaries and robberies.

“Community pharmacists can not only use this tool to help law enforcement apprehend pharmacy robbers, they can 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.”

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The RxPATROL Pharmacy Theft Report will be posted on the RxPATROL web site (www.rxpatrol.org) as well as the web sites of NADDI (www.naddi.org), the NCPA (www.ncpanet.org) and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (www.psi-inc.org). A generic version of this report will be disseminated to NCPA members for their use.

“Consistent intelligence gathering and timely incident analysis can reveal trends and schemes that threaten pharmacists and pharmacy personnel,” said Charlie Cichon, President of NADDI. “RxPATROL will provide the timely information to law enforcement and the pharmacy community so that they can anticipate and take steps to deter pharmacy theft.”

“This innovative initiative combines proven crime reporting and analysis methods with cutting-edge information technology to help stop pharmacy robbers, said Tom Kubic, Executive Director of the Pharmaceutical Security Institute. “We hope the pharmacy community will use this tool to help protect their businesses, employees and customers.”

The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Inc. (NADDI), established in 1987, is a unique membership organization whose members are responsible for investigating and prosecuting pharmaceutical drug diversion. NADDI’s principle activities include cooperative education and training in the specifics of pharmaceutical drug diversion, investigation, prosecution and prevention; the sharing of investigative information and communication with a wide variety of interested parties with regard to the nature, scope and impact of pharmaceutical drug diversion; and the development of more effective measures to combat the problem.

The National Community Pharmacists Association, founded in 1898, as the National Association of Retail Druggists (NARD), represents the pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of nearly 25,000 independent community pharmacies across the United States. Independent pharmacists - more than 60,000 nationwide - dispense the majority of the nation's retail prescription drugs.

The Pharmaceutical Security Institute is a not-for-profit organization representing pharmaceutical manufacturers from many nations. PSI is dedicated to protecting the public health, sharing information on the counterfeiting of pharmaceuticals, and initiating enforcement actions through the appropriate authorities.

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