

NewsRelease

NACDS SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO TRACK AND PREVENT PHARMACT THEFT

*New Clearinghouse Promotes Information Sharing Among
Pharmacies and Law Enforcement*

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Alexandria, VA-June 19, 2003- The RxPATROL (Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies and Other Losses) initiative is an information clearinghouse designed to collect, analyze and share information on pharmacy robberies, burglaries, and theft of controlled substances. Funded by Purdue Pharma L.P., RxPATROL allows pharmacy personnel to submit comprehensive theft reports to a secure Internet site. The state-of-the-art software will collect and analyze information from pharmacy theft reports across the country to identify theft patterns, assesses which pharmacies could be vulnerable and why, and determine which security systems are the most effective at deterring burglaries.

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NACDS applauds Purdue Pharma for addressing an issue that has been of tremendous concern to chain pharmacy. Stopping theft and armed robberies, by giving law enforcement agencies the tools they need to investigate cases and alerting pharmacies at risk, will benefit pharmacies and the communities they serve.

As the trade group representing community chain pharmacy, NACDS has long advocated the optimum use of electronic technology for the advancement of pharmacy operations, customer satisfaction, and patient safety. The RxPATROL initiative represents significant use of utilizing technology to deter pharmacy theft, and is another example of how electronic technology help retail pharmacy operate more efficiently.

NACDS member companies will make their own decisions as to whether they will participate in the RxPATROL program.

Founded in 1933 and based in Alexandria, Virginia, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) membership consists of more than 210 retail chain community pharmacy companies. Collectively, chain community pharmacy comprises the largest component of pharmacy practice with over 100,000 pharmacists. The chain community pharmacy industry is comprised of more than 20,000 traditional chain drug stores, 8,800 supermarket pharmacies and nearly 6,300 mass merchant pharmacies. The NACDS membership base operates more than 34,000 retail community pharmacies with annual sales totaling over \$500 billion, including \$180 billion in sales for prescription drugs and \$68 billion for over-the-counter (OTC) medications and health and beauty aids. Chain operated community retail pharmacies fill over 60% of more than 3 billion prescriptions dispensed annually in the United States. Additionally, NACDS membership includes nearly 1,034 suppliers of goods and services to chain community pharmacies. NACDS international membership has grown to include 108 members from 33 foreign countries. For more information about NACDS visit www.nacds.org.

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