



Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner



Arlene González-Sánchez  
Commissioner

September 3, 2013

Dear Health Professional and Educational Leaders:

The New York State Department of Health (Department) and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) are pleased to provide you with several new publications to educate and raise awareness about prescription drug abuse (i.e., opioids). These new publications are available, free of charge, to the general public and healthcare practitioners. Consumers who request the publications will also receive information on how to find a drug treatment provider near them, as well as other resources.

The Prescription Drug Reform law, passed in 2012, established a Prescription Pain Medication Awareness Program. As part of this program, these publications were developed by a work group comprised of physicians, pharmacists, addiction treatment providers, prevention experts, and representatives of several government agencies. In addition to informing, educating and raising awareness about prescription drug misuse, these materials are intended to compliment the efforts of the Department's updated Prescription Monitoring Program Registry, also referred to as the Internet System for Tracking Over Prescribing or I-STOP. We encourage you to order the new publications and share them with your patients/clients/families and the community at large.

Health professionals and educational leaders play an important role in heightening awareness of the consequences of prescription pain medication misuse. The brochures are available in English and Spanish. To order your free supply of any or all of these publications, please complete the enclosed order form and fax or mail your order to the Department at the address indicated on the form.

We appreciate your support as we work to address this serious issue. For more information about prescription drug abuse and misuse visit:

<http://www.oasas.ny.gov/StopRxMisuse/index.cfm> or  
[http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/prescription\\_drug\\_abuse\\_awareness/](http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/prescription_drug_abuse_awareness/)

Sincerely,

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner  
New York State Department of Health

Arlene González-Sánchez, M.S., L.M.S.W.  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Service

Enclosure