

Anti-Diversion & Regulation

Prescription drugs, including controlled substances, are critical to patient care; yet, their misuse and abuse has contributed to an opioid epidemic that is a serious and complex public health issue. Cardinal Health recognizes our role alongside all participants in the prescription drug supply chain, including regulators, manufacturers, physicians, pharmacists and patients, in helping to combat this challenge. We are committed to doing our part.



4.4 BILLION

In 2015, **4.4 billion total prescriptions were filled¹, equal to about 12 prescriptions filled per person** throughout the US.²



11 PERCENT

About 470 million prescriptions in 2015 – or **approximately 11 percent of all prescriptions – were for pain**, usually prescribed following surgery or injury, or for health conditions such as cancer.³



1 IN 4 PATIENTS

Misuse and diversion of a portion of these drugs has contributed to the opioid epidemic, with the Centers for Disease Control estimating that as many as **one in four patients receiving long-term prescription opioid therapy in a primary care setting struggles with opioid addiction.**⁴

Our Responsibility

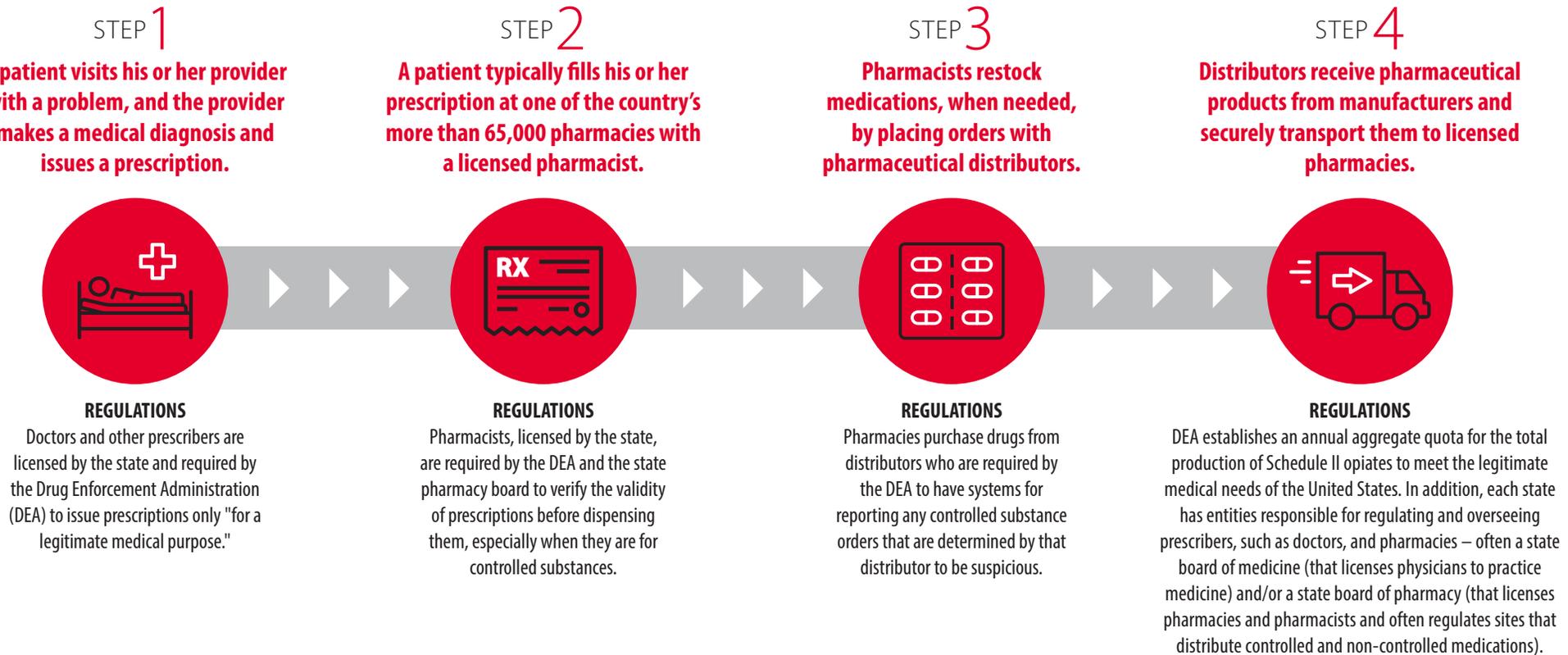
The people of Cardinal Health care deeply about the devastation opioid abuse has caused American families and communities and are committed to being part of the solution. We operate as part of a multi-faceted and highly regulated healthcare system – in our role as a pharmaceutical wholesale distributor, we do not manufacture, promote or prescribe prescription medications to members of the public. Our responsibility as a distributor is to provide a safe and secure channel to deliver medications of all kinds, from the hundreds of manufacturers who make them to the thousands of government-authorized pharmacies that fill doctors' prescriptions for patients, and in that process – within the channels we control – prevent the diversion of pain medications from legitimate and appropriate uses. This responsibility is as core to our business as success in sales or logistics.

1. Source: IMS 2016 National Health Audit: <http://www.imshealth.com/en/about-us/news/ims-health-study-us-drug-spending-growth-reaches-8.5-percent-in-2015>
2. Source for U.S. population in 2015 is the US Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps90.html>
3. Source: IMS Health National Prescription Audit, 2016, data referenced from IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics Report: Medicines Use and Spending in the U.S.: A Review of 2015 and Outlook to 2020. April 2016. Page 40. Available here: <http://www.imshealth.com/en/thought-leadership/quintilesims-institute/reports/medicines-use-and-spending-in-the-us-a-review-of-2015-and-outlook-to-2020>
4. Source: Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/patients.html>



The pharmaceutical supply chain

All medications travel through a complex and highly regulated health care system that includes many participants.



At Cardinal Health, our role is to ensure that prescribers, pharmacists and patients have access to the medications they need when and where they need them, while we work with all stakeholders and interested parties to fight prescription drug diversion and abuse. We have launched initiatives to improve prescription drug abuse education and combat diversion of pain medications. Cardinal Health has been and intends to remain an industry leader in implementing state-of-the-art controls, prevention programs and cross-sector anti-diversion efforts.

Our system, unique in the industry, uses advanced analytics and on-the-ground deployment of investigators to evaluate pharmacies, scrutinize shipments and identify, block and report suspicious orders of pain medications.