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### **New Source of Information on Preventing Opioid Misuse and Abuse**

*34<sup>th</sup> Talk About Your Medicines Month Addresses Preventing Opioid Misuse and Abuse Across the Ages*

Gloucester, MA – The opioid epidemic is a public health emergency. On average, 130 Americans die every day from opioid misuse according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All Americans are affected by this problem. It may be the death of a family member from an overdose, the legal problems, or the heartbreak of a friend losing everything due to addiction. This epidemic affects every community.

October is “Talk About Your Medicines Month.” During this month everyone is encouraged to learn about how they can help prevent misuse and abuse of opioids. By going to the [Talk About Your Medicines](http://www.talkaboutyourmedicines.org) website ([www.talkaboutyourmedicines.org](http://www.talkaboutyourmedicines.org)) you can find a wealth of information on opioids:

- Proper use
- Proper storage
- Proper disposal
- Alternatives to opioids
- Resources to learn more

With all the information available, it can be overwhelming and difficult to find reliable data. “The [Talk About Your Medicines](http://www.talkaboutyourmedicines.org) website has links to the

most comprehensive and up-to-date information on preventing opioid misuse and abuse. “We break the data and educational resources down by different age groups from toddlers to older adults, to help people find the most appropriate information,” says Deborah Davidson, Director of Special Projects, BeMedWise and team leader of this project. “Knowledge is key to preventing opioid misuse and abuse. Our goal is to help people find the information they need.”

The website has a downloadable toolkit with information, graphics, social media messages, and more designed to help local organizations raise awareness of this epidemic.

According to Rich Sagall, MD, president of NeedyMeds, “This is the 34<sup>th</sup> year of ‘Talk About Your Medicines’ month. NeedyMeds is proud to continue this tradition, originally started by BeMedWise and the National Patient Information and Education (NCPIE).”

“We are excited to kick-off the month with a free [introductory webinar](#) on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30 PM,” said Carla Dellaporta, NeedyMeds’ Director of Education and Outreach. “It’s an opportunity for anyone interested to learn about the goals of the month and all the information on the website.”

About BeMedWise: [BeMedWise](http://www.bemedwise.org) (www.bemedwise.org), a project of NeedyMeds, and its [Supporters](#) promotes the safe use of medicines through trusted communication for better health. The information covers safe use, storage, and disposal of medicines.

About NeedyMeds: NeedyMeds, a national nonprofit, is a comprehensive and reliable source of information on assistance programs available for people having difficulties paying for their medications or healthcare. The website (<http://www.needymeds.org>) is visited by approximately 11,000-14,000 people each workday. NeedyMeds' information is always free, easy to access, and updated regularly. Unlike similar sites, NeedyMeds requires no registration and gathers no identifiable information on site visitors.

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