

# Eight Things Hospitals can do to Combat Opioid Overdoses

**SCHA**  
SC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The South Carolina Hospital Association and the SC Opioid Emergency Response Team (SC OERT) are working to combat the opioid epidemic in our state, a challenge which has only been exacerbated by the negative impact of COVID-19. **These resources may be helpful for you in taking action against this opioid pandemic:**

1

Prescribe and encourage acceptance of naloxone for any patient given an opioid prescription or with a history of substance use. For more information, go to [www.naloxonesavessc.org](http://www.naloxonesavessc.org).

2

Help identify and intervene with patients at risk for psychosocial or healthcare problems related to substance use using the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) model. For a free, short online training, go to [scsbirt.com](http://scsbirt.com).

3

Inform patients of safe medication disposal sites for unused prescriptions. For a location near you, go to [justplainkillers.com/drug-safety](http://justplainkillers.com/drug-safety).

4

Share information in waiting areas and patient rooms about the SC HOPES support line, that will provide residents with resources to deal with substance use or mental health issues related to COVID-19. The statewide support line can be reached 24/7, toll-free, at 1 (844) SC-HOPES (724-6737). Callers will be connected with trained clinicians who can address their specific needs. Resources are available [here](#).

5

Provide valuable drug overdose information that can help identify trends across the state to better target prevention and response effects by partnering with the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program. Visit [scha.org/news/overdose-to-action](https://scha.org/news/overdose-to-action) for more information.

6

Reduce the number of opioid prescribed for various surgical procedures by partnering with the SC Surgical Quality Collaborative (SCSQC). For more information, [click here](#).

7

Speak with encouragement. Language is a powerful tool. It can inform, clarify, encourage, support, enlighten and unify. But it can also judge, show bias, divide and discourage. When it comes to recovery, the language we use frames what those in recovery, or who are seeking recovery, think about themselves and their ability to change. [Use this resource](#) and [this resource](#) to reference how language can be more receptive.

8

Partner even more closely with your local alcohol and drug center to ensure that before discharge patients link directly with outpatient resources so that barriers to treatment are more likely overcome. SCHA partners with DAODAS to improve these connections as well as provide resources and information on best practices.

## WHO TO CONTACT

Contact Melanie Matney at [mmatney@scha.org](mailto:mmatney@scha.org) to learn more about best practices in South Carolina and potential hospital resources.