

# the pharmacists clinic

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Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Local Pharmacy Promotes Naloxone to Save Lives on Overdose Awareness Day**

With the current opioid use epidemic, loved ones can now keep rescue medicine on hand

San Diego, CA – August 29, 2016 – This Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> is **Overdose Awareness Day**. This annual awareness day aims to reduce the stigma of drug-related overdose, prevent overdose-related death, and remember loved ones injured or lost to overdose.

Opioid-related overdoses and overdose fatalities are a growing epidemic in the United States and in San Diego. Opioids, including prescription opioid pain relievers and heroin, killed more than 28,000 people in the U.S. in 2014 alone. **Home naloxone** decreases overdose-related fatalities. Naloxone is an antidote to opioids and when given, reverses the effects of opioid overdose immediately. California and some other states have expanded access to home naloxone through pharmacist prescribing and dispensing.

**The Pharmacists Clinic** is committed to saving lives by offering naloxone to patients. We offer overdose education and home naloxone kits to all patients who have a personal opioid-overdose risk or a loved one at risk. Some of the risk factors for overdose are: history of overdose, history of opioid misuse or abuse, chronic prescription opioid use with complex medical problems, or taking long-acting opioids. Patients can choose to get naloxone to use at home as an injection, nasal spray, or auto-injection device. Our clinical pharmacist, Dr. Sally Rafie, will review the signs of an overdose, how to respond, and how to administer naloxone in case of emergency with each patient.

“Many patients underestimate their risk of opioid overdose or that of their loved ones. My goal is for my patients to have this available just in case. There’s no judgment or consequence to keeping this life-saving medicine on hand in case of emergency.” (Dr. Sally Rafie) Anyone can [book a quick appointment](#) and walk out of the pharmacy equipped with a naloxone kit.

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### **About The Pharmacists Clinic:**

The Pharmacists Clinic is the first pharmacist-run clinic offering clinical health services inside a community pharmacy in San Diego. Recent laws expanded pharmacists' scope of practice to include prescribing some medications to increase access to health care services for Californians. The Pharmacists Clinic offers prescriptions for birth control, immunizations, travel meds, nicotine replacement therapy, naloxone opioid rescue, and lab tests. The Pharmacists Clinic is located inside Point Loma Shelter Island Drug, a family-owned pharmacy since 1924.