



**NASSAU COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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September 20, 2012

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing today to inform you of an initiative coming from the Nassau County Heroin Prevention Taskforce. The taskforce is a collaborative effort of Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano and District Attorney Kathleen Rice. Addressing illegal narcotics and the current prescription opiate epidemic has become the primary focus of the taskforce.

As you know, addiction, overdose, and crimes related to prescription opiate narcotics are at an all time high. In recent times, multiple homicides have occurred on Long Island by addicts looking for opiates from pharmacies. Further, Nassau County has seen the number of overdose deaths from legally prescribed opiate narcotics triple compared to fatalities due to heroin in the last year. I have worked very closely with the Nassau County Medical Society to assure that physicians and other medical providers are fairly represented in the discussions regarding response to this epidemic. Recently, new legislation (I-STOP) was passed at the state level creating a mandatory user database for healthcare providers prescribing prescription opiates. Clearly, prescribers must be a part of the equation in fighting this epidemic.

As part of the Heroin Prevention Taskforce's response to this epidemic, I have prepared a power point presentation intended for health care providers. The goal is to discuss the data, trends, laws, liability, and other factors which healthcare providers should be aware of when prescribing narcotics. My approach is to engage medical providers as partners in the narcotics epidemic. Healthcare providers need to become fully aware of the tactics used by addicts.

I will be reaching out to all Nassau County hospital department heads seeking the opportunity to present the power point during Grand Rounds. I would greatly appreciate your support on this timely and important topic. Well informed providers can make a big difference in this ongoing epidemic.

On behalf of County Executive Mangano, District Attorney Rice, and the hard working members of the Heroin Prevention Task Force, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Eisenstein, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
Commissioner of Health