



VHS NEWS

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Valley Hope Solutions has been providing billing and administrative services for behavioral health issues for more than 50 years, we are even more focused today on keeping our stakeholders informed of leading stories and issues pertaining to our ever-changing industry. We hope this serves to be an informative resource, while providing helpful tips, networking events and educational opportunities. Thank you for your continued support of Valley Hope Solutions - enjoy the journey with us!

www.ValleyHopeSolutions.com

Red Rose Day



June 12 is Red Rose Day. It is an annual celebration of the universal symbol of love and romance the humble, but beautiful red rose

UPCOMING EVENTS

Colorado Association of Addiction Professionals

Annual Conference

June 21 - June 22, 2018 Chicago, IL

[Learn More on their website](#)



Information Corner

Valley Hope Solutions supports Valley Hope in Golf Tournament last month in Chandler, AZ.

The team had a great time and was

happy to support VH patients.



FENTANYL NOW DRIVE DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN U.S.

TUESDAY, May 1, 2018 (HealthDay News) -- Overdose deaths involving dangerous synthetic opioids like fentanyl have skyrocketed in recent years, surpassing deaths from prescription painkillers, a new U.S. study reveals.

Synthetic opioids -- primarily fentanyl -- were involved in more than 30 percent of fatal overdoses in 2016, up from roughly 8 percent in 2010, the researchers reported.

Overall, drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl-type drugs in the United States rose from about 3,000 in 2010 to more than 19,400 in 2016.

"This is very consistent with data from the [U.S.] Drug Enforcement Administration that shows a great increase in the trafficking and availability of synthetic opioids like illicit fentanyl over the past few years," said lead researcher Christopher Jones, of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Prescription painkillers -- the previous front-runner in U.S. drug overdose deaths -- accounted for about 17,000 deaths in 2016, and heroin roughly 15,000, the study showed.

According to Linda Richter, director of policy research and analysis with the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, the findings "solidly confirm what front-line health care and law enforcement professionals in towns and cities across the country know from firsthand experience: deadly synthetic opioids like fentanyl are now the main drivers of drug overdose deaths in the United States." ...

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5 PAYER TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2018

Expect insurers to accelerate programs and policies that cut costs and to push for value-based contracting as consumers demand more transparency in healthcare pricing.

The past year has been an eventful one for payers, from the tumultuous Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange markets to potential mega-mergers. Insurers continue, however, to keep their efforts focused on lowering healthcare costs where possible, with the intention that quality of care is not sacrificed.

Those payer efforts are working. Healthcare spending growth dropped to the lowest level in nearly two years, and hospital spending growth lags behind all other healthcare sectors. Hospital spending increased by only 0.8% year-over-year in June, which was the slowest growth rate since January 1989.

Payors have ratcheted down hospital payments by creating policies with an eye toward providing care at less-costly locations, designing health plans that put more healthcare utilization costs on members and by replacing fee-for-service payments with value-based contracts. Providers have also teamed up with insurers in partnerships that look to offer better outcomes.

Looking ahead to next year, you can expect payers to implement more cost-saving measures and push for value-based contracting. Here's a look at five payer trends to watch for in 2018, and some tips for preparing to deal with them.

1. Payers will continue to ramp up ways to cut costs...

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WHAT IS NALOXONE

Naloxone may play a key role in curbing the opioid crisis in the U.S.

By Korin Miller

Mar 22, 2018

More than 115 Americans die every day due to an opioid overdose, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

That terrifying number is part of the reason why White House officials unveiled a plan earlier this week to help combat the opioid crisis in the U.S. Among other things, the plan includes arming more first responders with naloxone to help treat overdoses.

But what is naloxone, exactly—and could it be the key to saving more lives?

Naloxone is a non-addictive, life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when it's given in time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC) says.

The drug works by binding to opioid receptors in your body and reversing or blocking the effects of opioids like heroin, morphine, or hydrocodone, among others, according to James J. Galligan, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacology and toxicology and director of the neuroscience program at Michigan State University.

People die of opioid overdoses because...

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FDA CRACKS DOWN ON DANGEROUS E-CIG LIQUIDS THAT RESEMBLE COOKIES, CANDY

Administration on Tuesday warned the makers of e-cigarette liquids that are packaged to look like juice boxes, candies and cookies to stop selling their products.

The action, taken in concert with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, also cited some of these companies for illegally selling these products to minors. In all, 13 warning letters were issued.

"Today's announcement should send a clear signal that companies selling these products have a responsibility to ensure they are not putting children in harm's way or enticing youth use," FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said during a morning media briefing.

"No child should be using any tobacco product, and no tobacco products should be marketed in a way that endangers kids -- especially by using imagery that misleads them into thinking the products are things they'd eat or drink," Gottlieb added in a statement.

"Looking at these side-to-side comparisons is alarming. It is easy to see how a child could confuse these e-liquid products for something they believe they've consumed before -- like a juice box," Gottlieb added.

"These are preventable accidents that have the potential to result in serious harm or even death."

In fact, the increasing popularity of e-cigarettes has coincided with an increase in calls to poison control centers and visits to emergency rooms for e-cigarette liquid poisoning and other nicotine exposure, the agency noted.

A recent analysis showed there were a total of 8,269 e-cigarette and liquid nicotine exposures among children younger than 6 between January 2012 and April 2017, according to the FDA.

Children are at greater risk because even relatively small amounts of nicotine could result in acute toxicity, the agency noted. Small children who are exposed to e-cigarette liquid or ingest it can die from cardiac arrest, as well as experience seizures, comas and respiratory arrest.

"Companies selling these products have a responsibility to ensure they aren't putting children in harm's ...

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Valley Hope Solutions

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Valley Hope Solutions' mission is to help with the quality of care for patients seeking mental and behavioral health treatment, by providing billing and support services led by industry experts, so healthcare providers can focus on the most important element of recovery: the patients.

Valley Hope Solutions Services include:

- Experts in Electronic Insurance Claim Submission
- Stringent Collection follow-up process
- Eligibility and Benefit Verification Services
- Insurance Contract Negotiations and SCA
- Administrative/Operational Consulting Services
- Boutique Billing (Specialty Services)
- Specialized Consulting For All Your Business And Accreditation Needs

