



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Memorial Health to Host Medication Take Back Event to Crush the Crisis
Part of a Nationwide Effort to Stop Opioid Abuse

Savannah, Georgia (August 29, 2019) — The numbers are staggering. More than 130 people die every day from an opioid overdose and more than half of the people who misuse these drugs get them or steal them from someone they know. That’s why we are want to #CrushTheCrisis.

On Saturday, September 7, Memorial Health will be hosting a drug take back event. From 9 AM – 1 PM, anyone can drop off unneeded or expired medications. With the help of the Savannah Police Department, we will make sure these drugs don’t get into the wrong hands.

“Keeping unused opioids around the home is just not safe,” says Dr. Jay Goldstein, medical director for emergency medicine at Memorial Health. “We want to make sure our friends and neighbors have a place to safely dispose of these very addictive drugs.”

The collection location for the event will be across the street from the main entrance of Memorial Health. You can “drive through” to drop off medications, without getting out of your car.

Memorial Health’s event is one of dozens of medication take back events being held across the country by HCA Healthcare facilities. With 185 hospitals and approximately 2,000 sites of care, HCA Healthcare is committed to curbing the tide of opioid misuse and addiction.

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What are opioids?

Opioids are a class of drugs used to treat acute and chronic pain and are often prescribed following surgery, injury or for health conditions such as cancer.

- Common types of prescription opioids include oxycodone (OxyContin), hydrocodone (Vicodin), codeine, morphine and methadone.
- Other opiates include fentanyl and heroin.

Why are opioids addictive?

Opioid medications bind to the areas of the brain that control pain and emotions, driving levels of the “feel-good” hormone dopamine in the brain’s reward areas and producing an intense feeling of euphoria. As the brain becomes used to the feelings, it often requires more and more of the drug to produce the same levels of pain relief and well-being, leading to dependence and, later, addiction.

Memorial Health provides the region’s only Level I trauma center for the most acute illness and injuries, as well as dedicated children’s, cancer and heart hospitals to serve a 35-county area in southeast Georgia and southern South Carolina. The system includes its flagship hospital – Memorial Health University Medical Center - a 612-bed academic medical center; Memorial Health University Physicians’ primary and specialty care networks; a major medical education program; business and industry services; and NurseOne, a 24-hour call center. Memorial Health is a part of the HCA Healthcare family, the largest provider of care in the United States and the UK.

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