



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!

Fun Holiday – Lets Laugh Day

Let's Laugh Day is celebrated every year on March 19. It is an unofficial holiday that encourages people to laugh and enjoy the benefits of laughter.

Studies have suggested that laughter can help people relax and reduce stress. Laughing and being joyful can also have health and social benefits.



UPCOMING EVENTS



American Telemedicine Association

Annual Conference and Expo
April 29th - May 1, 2018 Chicago, IL

[Learn More on their website](#)

Biller's News Flash:

Follow-Up Calls : "It's important to ensure you are calling the correct insurance phone number, and take into account what type of claim you're calling on. Behavioral Health and Medical claims billing departments do not always have access to the same information."

-Stephanie E.

VHS Billing Specialist





HOUSE REPUBLICANS PLAN LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS AS FIRST STEP TO FIGHT OPIOID CRISIS

Bills to be considered will focus on law enforcement, public health and prevention, and insurance coverage issues.

Feb. 20, 2018

House Republicans will begin a series of legislative hearings next week as the first step in an effort to pass bipartisan bills tackling the opioid crisis.

The plan from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which will hold the first hearing on Feb. 28, will likely require additional funding from Congress, lawmakers said. Bills to be considered will focus on law enforcement, public health and prevention, and insurance coverage issues.

“It’s my top priority as chairman of the committee to get rid of this deadly epidemic,” committee Chairman Rep. Greg Walden (R., Ore.) said in an interview. “There’s going to be money—more money than has ever been spent.”

Two additional hearings will be held in March as lawmakers seek to push a measure through the House by the end of May. Republican committee leaders are already talking with Democrats and the Trump administration about the initiative and have received a positive response, Mr. Walden said.

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**NALOXONE
SAVES LIVES.**

A NEW STATE RULE ALLOWS FIRST RESPONDERS TO LEAVE A DOSE OF NALOXONE WITH OVERDOSE PATIENTS WHO REFUSE ADDITIONAL TREATMENT

First responders in Erie County can now leave behind extra help when a patient refuses treatment after an opioid overdose.

A new standing order issued by Pennsylvania Physician General Rachel L. Levine allows responders across the state to leave a dose of naloxone, the opioid-overdose reversal drug, when patients refuse to be transported to a hospital after being revived from an overdose.

Some local first responders could start leaving naloxone with patients and their families by the end of February. Erie County officials started distributing extra doses to first responders this past week.

“It’s just another tool that we have available to us to keep people alive until we’re able to successfully engage them into treatment,” said David Sanner,

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FACEBOOK JOINS EFFORT TO FIGHT OPIOID CRISIS

IN NEW MEXICO

February 13, 2018 03:19 PM

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

Facebook is launching an effort to help fight the opioid crisis in New Mexico — a state that has battled heroin addiction for decades, the social media giant announced Tuesday.

The tech company said it will work with New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas to show Facebook users how they can use its digital tools to combat addiction.

Ana Martinez, head of Facebook's community engagement for the U.S. Southwest, said the social media company's online groups offer families support and information to fight addiction.

"A great example of this is actually 'Facing Addiction', which is a Facebook page started by a nonprofit,"

Martinez said before Facebook brought together health experts and advocates in Albuquerque for training Tuesday. "They currently have 60,000 followers on their Facebook page."

The members of the page started a more intimate forum where those impacted by addiction to find comfort and support, Martinez said.

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**OPIOID MAKERS FACE HUNDREDS OF LAWSUITS
FOR MISLEADING DOCTORS ABOUT DRUG'S
ADDICTIVE NATURE**

USA Today Network Jerry Mitchell, The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion Ledger

JACKSON, Miss. — The federal judge overseeing about 200 lawsuits against opioid makers would rather curb the opioid epidemic than referee the litigation.

“About 150 Americans are going to die today, just today, while we’re meeting,” U.S. District Judge Dan Polster of Cleveland, Ohio, told the parties earlier this month. “And in my humble opinion, everyone shares some of the responsibility, and no one has done enough to abate it.”

He sees no value in depositions and trials, he said. “People aren’t interested in figuring out the answer to interesting legal questions like pre-emption and learning intermediary, or unraveling complicated conspiracy theories.”

Instead, “my objective is to do something meaningful to abate this crisis and to do it in 2018,” the judge said. “I’m confident we can do something to dramatically reduce the number of opioids that are being disseminated, manufactured and distributed. Just dramatically reduce the quantity and make sure that the pills

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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