



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Thursday, October 5, 2017

**MEMORANDUM FOR: HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

FROM: KATHLEEN M. McGETTIGAN, ACTING DIRECTOR, U.S. OFFICE  
OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

RICHARD J. BAUM, ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NATIONAL  
DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Subject: Fact Sheet to All Federal Employees about Preventing Opioid Misuse

The United States is in the midst of an opioid abuse epidemic. More than 2.4 million Americans currently struggle with opioid addiction. In 2015, more than 33,000 people died from drug overdoses involving opioids and crude data for the first three quarters of 2016 indicate that the drug overdose death rate is still increasing. President Trump recently announced his intention to use all appropriate authorities to respond to the crisis. As a Federal agency leader, you have an important role in fighting this epidemic.

The first step is to ensure all Federal employees are aware of the resources available and what they can do to help prevent opioid abuse. We're providing the attached fact sheet and ask you to support widest distribution within your agency. The attachment discusses key information on opioid abuse, safe use of prescribed pain medications, and how employees can get help when needed. Your EAP administrators, benefits officers, and health unit personnel can also help amplify this message through on-going communication with employees.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter. Working together, we can educate our workforce and help ensure timely assistance for those in need.

Attachment (see 508-compliant PDF below)

cc: EAP Representatives, and Chief Human Capital Officers