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HSCA Urges DEA to Take Steps to Mitigate Shortages of Injectable Opioids

Washington, DC (March 9, 2018) – Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) President and CEO Todd Ebert, R.Ph., today released the following statement encouraging the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to take critical steps to ease current shortages of injectable opioids:

“Hospitals and other healthcare providers are currently experiencing critical shortages of a number of injectable opioid medications – including morphine, hydromorphone, and fentanyl – that are an essential element of treatment for post-surgical and medical pain management. Without the necessary opioids available, many medical procedures would have to be postponed or cancelled, jeopardizing the wellbeing of patients across the country. Controlling narcotics use – particularly outpatient prescription opioid abuse – remains a public health priority that HSCA supports.

“Due to manufacturing delays, the primary manufacturer of some key injectable opioid medications has been unable to produce the required quantities of these drugs. Other manufacturers who are willing to come to the table to produce these medications to help mitigate the shortages are unable to due to DEA aggregate production quotas (APQs) for opioids.

“HSCA urges the DEA to adjust its aggregate production quotas for select injectable opioids to alleviate the ongoing drug shortages facing hospitals and the patients they serve.

“HSCA and its member group purchasing organizations (GPOs) are the sourcing and purchasing partners to virtually all of America’s 7,000+ hospitals, as well as the vast majority of the 68,000+ long-term care facilities, surgery centers, clinics, and other healthcare providers. Our unique line of sight into all aspects of the healthcare supply chain allows us to help our healthcare provider customers anticipate and navigate ongoing drug shortages.

“We will continue to work with the administration, hospitals, and all healthcare stakeholders to mitigate these shortages and identify solutions to protect patient access to care.”

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About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) represents the nation’s leading healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs), which are critical cost-savings partners to America’s hospitals, homes,

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nursing home pharmacies, clinics, home healthcare providers and surgery centers. GPOs deliver billions in savings annually to healthcare providers, Medicare and Medicaid, and taxpayers. HSCA and its member GPOs are committed to delivering the best products at the best value to healthcare providers, to increasing competition and innovation in the market, and to being supply chain leaders in transparency and accountability. For more information, visit www.supplychainassociation.org. Follow HSCA on Twitter [@HSCA](https://twitter.com/HSCA).

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