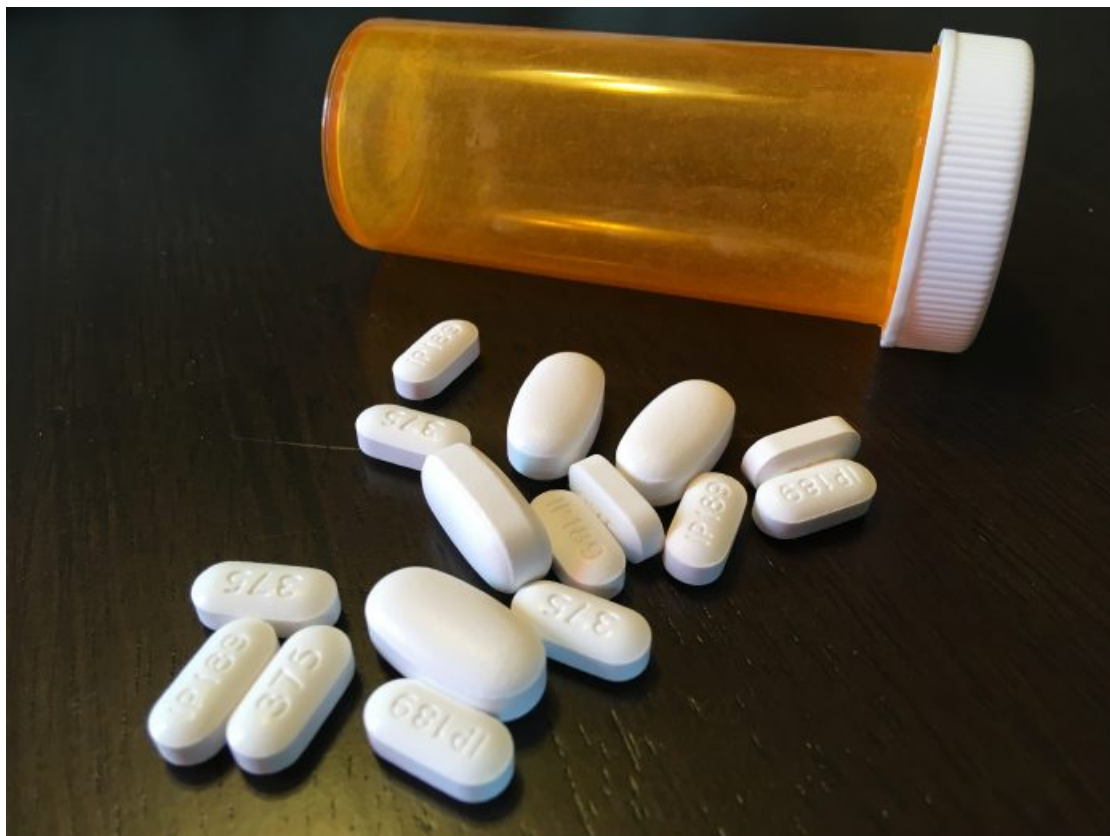


Opioid epidemic: What's in your medicine cabinet

By **Jim Herr** - April 20, 2018



CHEEKTOWAGA – Erie County Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale R. Burstein says young people who abuse prescription opioids face permanent damage.

“With opioid addiction, the brains get rewired and there is really no going back,” said Dr. Burstein. “We know that young people’s brains aren’t fully mature until their mid-20s so you can imagine its very easy to form new pathways that end up being permanent.”

A majority of opioid abusers get their first “fix” right from the medicine cabinet of their parents or grandparents. To help prevent the abuse, the Erie County Department of Health and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency are sponsoring a drug take-back program on Saturday, April 28th from 10 am – 2 pm at the Cheektowaga Police Department and St. Josephs Hospital.

Here’s a list of opioids to check for:

- Codeine (various brand names)
- Fentanyl (Actiq[®], Duragesic[®], Sublimaze[®])
- Hydrocodone or dihydrocodeinone (Vicodin[®], Norco[®], Zohydro[®], *and others*)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid[®])
- Meperidine (Demerol[®])
- Methadone (Dolophine[®], Methadose[®])
- Morphine (*Duramorph[®], MS Contin[®]*)
- Oxycodone (OxyContin[®], Percodan[®], Percocet[®], *and others*)
- Oxymorphone (Opana[®])

The drug take-back program will take any prescription or over the counter medicine.