Letter to the Editor Template

[Date]

[Name of media outlet or publication]

Attention: [Dr./Mr./Miss/Mrs. Editor’s first and last name or Editor]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip]

Dear [Dr./Mr./Miss/Mrs. Editor’s first and last name or Editor]:

Use of heroin and other opioids such as oxycodone or hydrocodone was thought to be an issue only in major U.S. cities or more populated states. However, in Iowa, the misuse and abuse of opioid medications and heroin has become an epidemic. In the last decade, significant increases have been observed throughout the state as numerous individuals identify heroin and other opioids as their drug of choice. Additionally, there has been an increase in overdose deaths due to heroin and other opioid medications.

To combat the rise of opioid and heroin abuse, the Iowa Board of Pharmacy enacted rules in November 2016 to allow pharmacists, who meet specific training requirements, to dispense opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, to patients upon request. The rules provide Iowans easier access to these life-saving medications, which reverse the effects of an overdose while emergency medical help is sought.

[Pharmacy name] has joined this undertaking to provide naloxone to our community members who are suffering from addiction or have a loved one who is at risk for overdose. The pharmacist will provide education on proper use of this medication in an emergency situation and encourage the caregiver to seek immediate medical attention if an overdose is to occur.

Please contact [Pharmacy name] if you have any questions regarding the availability of naloxone at our pharmacy.

Sincerely,

[Pharmacist’s Signature]

[Pharmacist’s Name]

[Title]

[Pharmacy/Organization]

[Daytime Contact Information]