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MEDIA ADVISORY

Hospitals Unite on New Pain Meds Policy Collaboration to Counter Drug Abuse, Improve Emergency Department Care

WHAT: SAFE PAIN MEDICINE PRESCRIBING POLICY LAUNCHED COUNTYWIDE
Multi-agency collaboration focused on preventing Rx drug misuse. The new policy, used by all eight emergency departments will include:

- When necessary, limited amounts of pain killers will be prescribed;
- EDs will not refill stolen prescriptions- but refer patients to police;
- May ask people to show a photo ID when receiving a pain prescription;
- ALL patients will be provided copies of new prescribing policy (attached)

WHO: Patrick Zarate, Chair, Ventura County Rx Drug and Heroin Workgroup
Carlo Reyes, M.D., Director, Emergency Department, Los Robles Medical Center;
Robert Levin, M.D., Medical Director, Ventura County Public Health Department;

WHEN: Thursday, January 29th, 2015, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Los Robles Hospital, 215 W. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360,
in Classroom 3, on the third floor of main campus

WHY:

- Like other parts of the nation, accidental deaths involving opiates have risen in recent years; with a population of 820,000 residents, there were 103 accidental drug deaths in 2012— 87 from opioids
- 20% of 11th graders in Ventura County used a prescription pain killer to “get high” and opioids are the fastest growing component of accidental deaths nationally
- The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) endorses safer prescribing guidelines
- By adopting uniform policies, a consistent message will be provided to patients countywide about how powerful prescription medications are made available in the Emergency Department.

FIND OUT MORE: www.VenturaCountyLimits.org/rx