



SAFENETRX

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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# Message from Jon

*Dear Friends,*

For over 19 years, SafeNetRx has worked to provide free and low-cost medicines to Iowa's most vulnerable patients. FY20 was an extraordinary year that presented so many unprecedented challenges to us all. Like many, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we work. We have integrated numerous safety protocols to protect SafeNetRx staff and ensure the safety of donated medicines, including a quarantine period for donations and added flexibility to process donations in shifts. There have been zero disruptions in the distribution of donated medicines or the dispensing and shipment of prescriptions, which is a testament of the preparedness and hard work of the SafeNetRx team.

Further, the racial justice challenges our country faces has allowed SafeNetRx to examine our own services and relationships with the communities we serve. Our commitment to fulfill our mission of serving ALL vulnerable populations - regardless of race, color, gender, sexuality, disability, income, or religion is unwavering. We strive to be the leading drug donation repository and welcome opportunities to listen, learn, and work with the communities we serve.

Our SafeNetRx team has grown much stronger in the last 12 months, and remarkably we reached new benchmarks in both the drug donation program and charitable pharmacy. In FY20, the value of donated medicines distributed to our clinic and pharmacy partners grew to over \$7.6 million. At the same time, our charitable pharmacy dispensed over 5,000 free and low-cost prescriptions, on average saving needy Iowans over \$190 per prescription.

We are looking forward to a huge FY21! The new fiscal year marks our 20th year in operation, and the need to expand the drug donation model has never been greater. Prescription affordability and medication waste are widespread challenges that are national in scope. SafeNetRx has pioneered the drug donation space and we look forward to serving a growing community of health providers and pharmacists that are committed to caring for patients in need.

Our success and impact would not be possible without the support of partners like you. Thank you for your support and service!

*Jon Michael Rosmann*

CEO  
SafeNetRx

# IMPACT TO DATE

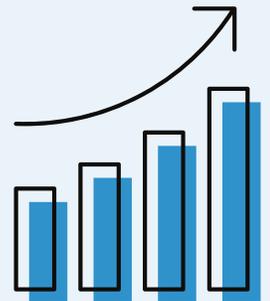
## AMERICANS CANNOT AFFORD THEIR MEDICATIONS

- Millions of Americans lack access to affordable care, a number that continues to grow. **Twenty percent** of the US population is medically underserved. This includes roughly 28 million uninsured persons<sup>1</sup> and 41 million underinsured persons with employer-provided, marketplace or Medicare plans<sup>2</sup>.
- **Over 40%** of adults in the U.S. delayed or did not get a needed prescription drug due to cost<sup>2</sup>.
- COVID-19 has led to unprecedented job loss, giving way to a significant rise in the number of uninsured and underinsured households. At the same time, hospitals and clinics are facing catastrophic financial challenges, many of which are limiting support for uninsured and low-income patients. These mounting challenges further underscore the need for affordable prescriptions.

A 38-year-old woman was unable to regularly afford her monthly epileptic medication. She would skip daily doses or take half doses in an effort to make her monthly prescription last longer. As a result she had two epileptic seizures ending in one trip to the ER and one hospitalization. A patient advocate identified her as eligible for the SafeNetRx Drug Donation Repository and since then has been able to manage her epilepsy with an effective daily regimen of seizure medication.

## OUR SOLUTION

- SafeNetRx serves our most vulnerable patients. Those that are medically uninsured or underinsured with a household income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level qualify for assistance.
- To date: Donors from nearly all 50 states have worked together to provide \$45,792,743 worth of medications for SafeNetRx to redistribute.
- SafeNetRx has provided medications and medical supplies for little to no cost to 103,711 underserved patients throughout Iowa.



## IMPROPER MEDICATION DISPOSAL NEGATIVELY AFFECTS OUR ENVIRONMENT

- An estimated \$5 billion worth of unexpired prescription drugs in unopened, tamper-proof packaging are wasted annually in the United States<sup>3</sup>. In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that approximately 740 tons of medications are wasted by nursing homes each year alone<sup>4</sup>.
- Medication waste is also a growing issue in our homes. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration advises consumers to dispose of unused medicine in the household trash, and in other instances flushing the medications down the toilet<sup>5</sup>. Research studies have shown active pharmaceutical ingredients are present in groundwater and drinking water as a result of flushing medications down the sink and/or toilet. In the first large-scale assessment of U.S. groundwater pumped for drinking water supply, 60% of the water sources contained hormones and pharmaceuticals<sup>6</sup>.
- Research studies have also shown active pharmaceutical ingredients are present in landfills as a result of disposing medications in municipal solid waste<sup>7,8</sup>.

## OUR SOLUTION

- To date, SafeNet Rx has safely redirected over 750 tons of medication for distribution to clinics and pharmacies or environmentally safe disposal.





# SAFENETRX DRUG DONATION REPOSITORY (FY2020)

The SafeNetRx Drug Donation Repository accepts donated medicines in sealed, tamper-evident packaging for distribution to clinics and pharmacies that provide care to underserved patients. Donations must pass a rigorous inspection process before being dispensed. Once the medication has been inspected by a pharmacist, clinics and pharmacies may order needed medications free of charge.

## IN FY2020



### 187

health care facilities and individuals from over **40 states** in the US donated medications & medical supplies



### \$7,959,224.68

worth of donated medicines were received



### 133

clinics and pharmacies ordered donated medicines



### 8,423

patients received donated medications and saved **\$7,657,226.23**

## TOP TEN MEDICATION CLASSES DISPENSED BY VALUE

**01 Anti-cancer**

**02 Antipsychotics**

**03 Antidepressants**

**04 Blood modifiers**

**05 Cholesterol-lowering agents**

**06 Gastrointestinal agents**

**07 Asthma/COPD agents**

**08 Antihypertensives**

**09 Oral Diabetic Medications**

**10 Anticonvulsants**

## PATIENT STORIES



A patient diagnosed with oral cancer was prescribed Afinitor as studies have demonstrated its effectiveness in treating this condition. The claim, prior authorization and appeal were all denied because it was prescribed for an off-label indication. The Iowa Drug Donation Repository was able to provide a 30-day supply (valued at \$13,530 AWP) to the patient's care team. His condition improved and providers determined that he was benefiting from the treatment. A second appeal was filed with the patient's insurance provider stating his improvement. The insurer approved the prior authorization and agreed to cover therapy for the remainder of the year.

A Medicaid patient received a \$1 raise and two \$250 bonuses that were paid in consecutive pay periods. As a result of the extra income for the month of July, the patient was notified that she no longer met the income guidelines for Medicaid. Her coverage would end, effective September 1, and she would be ineligible to reapply for three months. The patient was worried about how she would pay for her medications. SafeNetRx provided \$1,709 of donated medications during this coverage lapse period.

More than 50% of Iowa's prison population has a serious or chronic mental health diagnosis. Free access to needed behavioral health prescriptions while reintegrating into the community greatly improves the ability of a patient to be successful following release.

## PATIENT STORIES

A young female with bi-polar disorder was released from county jail. Prior to release, the individual was advised that she could obtain free behavioral health medications at no cost. Three days after being released she was seen at an outpatient clinic. She was in need of risperidone and was worried about her ability to effectively participate in an upcoming job interview. Through the Behavioral Health Medication Assistance Program, the individual was immediately provided a 30-day supply of medication at no cost. She stabilized her condition and was hired as a part-time Certified Nurse Assistant.

A 68-year-old, uninsured woman was hospitalized after experiencing a DVT. She required a five-day supply of enoxaparin injections, but was unable to afford the medication. The cost of this treatment regimen ranges from \$108.45 – \$803.79 for the five-day supply. The hospital was not comfortable discharging the patient without an adequate supply of enoxaparin. The SafeNetRx Charitable Pharmacy was able to dispense the enoxaparin immediately and save the patient hundreds of dollars for the medication and a multi-night stay in the hospital.

# SAFENETRX CHARITABLE PHARMACY

The SafeNetRx Charitable Pharmacy dispenses free and low-cost prescriptions to needy patients via mail-order.

The SafeNetRx Charitable Pharmacy has filled **over 9,000** thirty-day supply prescriptions since opening in June of 2018 and has saved patients an average of \$192.48 per prescription.



**848**  
TOTAL PATIENTS SERVED

**\$1,666,033**  
TOTAL VALUE OF PRESCRIPTIONS  
DISPENSED

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MEDICATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

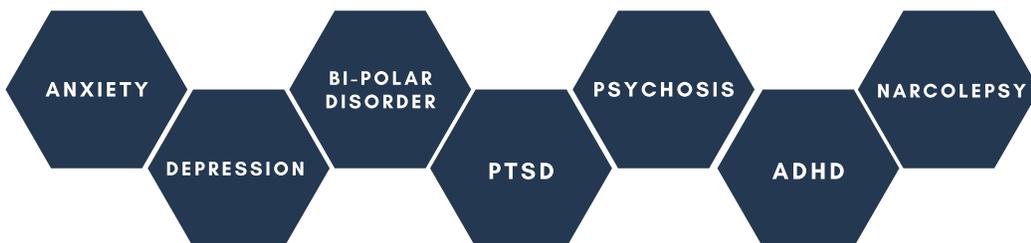
This program is a collaborative project between the SafeNetRx Charitable Pharmacy and the Iowa Attorney General's Office. Free behavioral health prescriptions are provided to justice-involved individuals for up to six months. The program was created in an effort to reduce rates of recidivism in Iowa and help individuals transition back into the community.

### ELIGIBILITY

Uninsured and underinsured patients 200 percent of the FPL that have been released from state or local supervision within the past three years. This includes:

- Department of Corrections
- County jail
- Juvenile detention
- Crisis observation

### DISEASE STATES TREATED



**8**

Judicial districts in Iowa refer patients to our program including 9 state prisons, 20 work release facilities, and 23 county jails



**717**

Patients served



**4983**

Prescriptions filled



**\$1,101,989.28 (AWP)**

Saved

# PATIENT STORIES



A 75-year-old veteran and cardiac patient missing two lobes of his lungs requires 12 prescriptions. The patient had a copay of \$20 for each prescription. He is on a fixed income well below 200% of the FPL and must cover housing, utilities, food, and medication. The patient was only taking the medications he believed as essential and was unable to afford copays for all 12 prescriptions. With help from the SafeNetRx Drug Donation Repository, he is now able to afford all 12 prescriptions without disruption. Per his provider at the County Health System:

**“SafeNetRx has not only saved him a hospital visit, it has saved his life!”**

A retired 71-year-old widow was diagnosed with respiratory failure secondary to COPD exacerbation. The patient has a high-deductible Medicare Part D insurance plan and could not afford the inhaler that the ICU doctor prescribed. Without prophylactic therapy it would only be a matter of time before she suffered another life-threatening respiratory emergency. Thanks to the SafeNetRx Drug Donation Repository the patient was sent home with an inhaler free-of-charge so she could begin therapy immediately preventing re-admittance or another life threatening episode.

A 73-year-old woman was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma of the lung, which in turn metastasized to her brain and liver. She had limited success with previous therapies so her provider wanted to try an alternative cancer medication. The copay would have been \$3,057 for her first fill, then approximately \$700 for future fills. Copay assistance was not available, nor did the patient’s income didn’t meet the eligibility guidelines for manufacturer assistance. With help from SafeNetRx she was able to get a 30-day supply of the needed medication. After demonstrating success with the alternative cancer medication the appeal was later approved.

• <sup>1</sup>Berchick, E. (2018, September 12). Who Are the Uninsured. US Census Bureau. Retrieved August 8, 2019,

from <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2018/09/who-are-the-uninsured.html>

• <sup>2</sup>Garfield, R., Majerol, M., Damico, A., & Foutz, J. (2016, November). The Uninsured: A Primer. Key Facts About Health Insurance and the Uninsured in the Era of Health Reform. The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. 11.

• <sup>3</sup>BMJ 2014;349:g7677

• <sup>4</sup>Allen, M. (2017, April 27). America’s Other Drug Problem. Pro Publica. Retrieved October 19, 2017, from

<https://www.propublica.org/article/americas-other-drug-problem>

• <sup>5</sup>Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know. US Food and Drug Administration. Retrieved August 9m 2019, from

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know#Flushing>.

• <sup>6</sup>Bexfield LM, Toccalino PL, Belitz K, Foreman WT, Furlong ET. Hormones and Pharmaceuticals in Groundwater Used As a Source of Drinking Water Across the United States. Environ Sci Technol. 2019;53(6):2950-2960. doi:10.1021/acs.est.8b05592

• <sup>7</sup>Rosmann J. Drug Donation Repositories: State Programs to Leverage Scarce Health Resources. Inside Pharmacy. 2013;1:13-14.

• <sup>8</sup>Kostich, M. S., Batt, A. L., & Lazorchak, J. M. (2014, January). Concentrations of prioritized pharmaceuticals in effluents from 50 large wastewater treatment plants in the US and implications for risk estimation. Environmental Pollution, 184, 354-359

# SAFENETRX MISSION

**Serving vulnerable populations through responsible collection and distribution of donated medicines.**

SafeNetRx is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of health and business professionals including public and private sector leaders from large and small health systems, pharmacy, nursing, academia, and finance.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## SAFENETRX STAFF

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Tabbi Liechty, Pharmacy Intern

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Alissa Smith, JD, Dorsey and Whitney

