

# Opioids – One More Epidemic for Catholic Health Care

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Modern Catholic health care can build on centuries of experience the church has had with epidemics. Scores of our patron saints are revered for their laeem

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others' health was part of community and parish life — special facilities and buildings were rare, and care was provided in homes, in churches and even on the streets. In fact, the modern version of a hospital didn't exist until the 18th century. Prior to this, most activities in buildings set aside for the care of the sick o ered chiefly palliative care. The focus of work was comfort, not investigation. And the care was provided by religious orders.

of the situation, as if we are hoping that the threat

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**St. Camillus de Lellis, MI, 1550-1614,**...

### **OPERATIONALIZING OUR MISSION**

In 2018, Catholic health care is well positioned to fight the opioid epidemic. Because this isn't our first time at the rodeo, Catholic health care can act quickly based on best practices and established resources. We have the science we need to effectively fight the opioid epidemic. We have clinical guidelines, we have alternate therapies and we have models of care delivery. We have relationships with legislators, administrators and law enforcement. We work with international agencies that collect data about threats and health challenges across the globe.

But we don't have sustained and collaborative efforts. We don't have an effective distribution



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# HEALTH PROGRES

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