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**THIRTY-THREE PERCENT OF U.S. CHRONIC PAIN PATIENTS ARE TAKING MORE  
MEDICATION THAN PRESCRIBED, NEW STUDY SHOWS**

*More Than 240,000 Patient Samples Examined*

**MIDLAND, TX** (May 8, 2007) – A study of more than 200,000 long-term chronic pain patients' urine samples found that 33 percent of these patients are currently taking more medication than prescribed. The study also showed 77 percent are not taking pain medications in strict compliance with their doctor's instructions. The data were released today by Ameritox, the nation's leading pain prescription monitoring company.

Results from the data also showed nationally that 11 percent of all samples contained traces of illicit substances, such as cocaine or marijuana. Thirty-seven percent of the samples did not contain any of the prescribed pain medication at all. The study also revealed that 30% of patient samples contained a medication not prescribed by the patient's doctor, and found that 13% of the samples contained a dosage below the expected range.

"The results of these samples show a clear disconnect between what is being prescribed by a doctor, and what a patient is actually taking," said Dr. Ronald C. Backer, co-founder and laboratory director for Ameritox. "Clearly, a great number of patients are not taking pain medications as prescribed. In many cases, based solely on patient behavior, doctors are not able to monitor what their patients are taking."

A related survey of the physicians for these patients showed that 61 percent of doctors either expressed "some" or "considerable" surprise at the level of non-compliance found. A separate review of six studies by researchers at Cornell University found that doctors were typically unable to detect a patient misusing medications as much as 90 percent of the time, and were also likely to mistakenly identify compliant patients as medication abusers.

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“These results show the absolute need for prescription monitoring of patients on opioid therapy. Truly accurate monitoring compares actual value and expected ranges and has a precise degree of specificity regarding low cutoff levels of medication. This ensures patient compliance, protects chronic pain patients from possible addiction, and enhances treatment outcomes,” said Dr. Backer. “Furthermore, monitoring provides peace of mind to doctors and protection to their practice. Doctors who monitor will spend more time treating their patients, and less time policing them.”

Ameritox sampled patients by taking patient demographics into account such as height and body weight, as well as their current prescription regimen. The company then provided expected ranges of pain medication levels based on its patented algorithm. Doctors were then able to analyze these results and adjust their opioid therapy program based on this information.

Ameritox’s pain prescription monitoring service, RxGuardian, is the only solution that measures ranges and has such a degree of specificity regarding the lowest identified cutoff levels in relation to expected results based on each individual patient.

“A new dimension in patient management is required to address the issue of patient compliance, especially when it comes to chronic pain medication,” said Dr. Backer. “We’ve found that 70% of doctors who use RxGuardian feel all patients on long-term opioids should be monitored. The current state of chronic pain patient care needs to be improved and redefined, and monitoring is the solution.”

### **About Ameritox**

Ameritox is the nation’s leader in pain prescription monitoring. Only Ameritox offers RxGuardian, the most thorough and personalized lab report available. By comparing the actual value to patient-specific expected ranges for each medication, RxGuardian lets pain practitioners protect their patients by safely prescribing the most appropriate and effective dosage. RxGuardian also provides peace of mind to physicians and protection to their practice by ensuring patients are taking pain medications as prescribed. With headquarters in Midland, Texas, Ameritox conducts thousands of monitoring screens per day.

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