



# Institutional Position

## Addressing the Opioid Crisis

WHEREAS, opioids are highly addictive drugs, available in illegal forms like heroin, or prescribed as pain relievers by medical professionals such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, or morphine, and sometimes offered in synthetic forms such as fentanyl, and

WHEREAS, continuous use of opioids – prescribed or otherwise – can lead to dependence, overdose and even death, and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. has nearly quadrupled, and

WHEREAS, since 1990, the number of opioid-related deaths in the U.S. (all ages) has increased almost 8-fold, and opioid-related deaths are now more common in the U.S. than deaths related to motor vehicle crashes and gun-related homicide combined, and

WHEREAS, the rate of non-fatal opioid overdoses in Illinois increased by 65.5% from July 2016 to September 2017, and

WHEREAS, in the state of Illinois, opioid overdoses have killed nearly 11,000 people since 2008, and

WHEREAS, 3.6% of adolescents in the U.S. ages 12-17 misused opioids in the past year, with 40,000 Illinois teens reporting non-medical use of prescription opioids, and

WHEREAS, over 20% of young adults ages 18-25 report misuse of prescription opioids, and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that an individual has a greater chance of developing a drug dependence if non-medical use of prescription drugs began at or before the age of 13.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago supports policy and program initiatives to discuss clinical and operational processes, messaging and advocacy efforts to help address opioid addiction problems; and



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago provides leadership and expertise internally and externally, evaluating existing processes and supporting policy and program initiatives to address misuse and addiction while remaining true to ChildKind international principles for pain reduction management.