

THIS ISSUE

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- Chemical Injuries: Researchers are hoping to treat chemical burns and severe corneal injuries through a new hydrogel contact lens.
- Eye Conditions: Multiple companies have drug-containing contact lenses in development to treat eye conditions like [glaucoma](#) and [corneal abrasions](#).
- Other Eye Injuries: Researchers are formulating a contact lens that could serve as a bandage¹.

Monitoring Your Health

- Researchers are exploring ways to measure intraocular pressure with contact lenses which would help treat glaucoma and monitor glucose levels¹. By monitoring the early warning signs of conditions like diabetes or glaucoma, users can seek timely medical intervention, potentially preventing or managing chronic diseases more effectively.

Enhancing Vision

- Tech companies like Google and Mojo Vision are developing contact lenses with AR that gives you access to timely information without even having to use your phone. As the technology continues to develop, we will likely see more smart contact lenses start to pop up in the market.

However, as with any new form of technology, the capabilities of these lenses will need to be monitored from a legal standpoint. For privacy purposes, regulations will need to protect consumers and their private health information from cybercriminals. Additionally, these lenses will need to comply with the regulations set for medical devices to protect the health of users².

As we look towards the future, the potential of smart contact lenses seems endless. From enhancing our vision and monitoring our health to revolutionizing the way we interact with digital information; these smart lenses are sure to transform the way we see the world.

Smart Contact Lenses



From fitness trackers that provide real-time health metrics to smartwatches that facilitate hands-free communication, wearable technology continues to expand rapidly, integrating seamlessly into daily life. But did you know there is such a type of wearable technology being developed in the form of contact lenses, known as Smart Contacts?

Smart contacts are just one of the latest trends in wearable technology that is causing a shift in the vision industry. These specialized lenses go far beyond just correcting refractive errors. They will also serve as medical devices that can monitor your health and even deliver treatment for certain eye conditions¹. Here are a few different features and use case scenarios currently being worked on by laboratories:

Medical Treatment

- Allergy Relief: An antihistamine-releasing contact lens is underway at Johnson & Johnson to provide allergy relief for those who suffer from [allergic conjunctivitis](#).

Sources:

- 1: <https://www.optometrists.org/general-practice-optometry/optical/guide-to-contact-lenses/smart-contact-lenses/>
- 2: <https://sites.suffolk.edu/jhtl/2024/04/18/seeing-differently-the-legal-landscape-of-mojo-visions-smart-contact-lenses/>

Strategies for Identifying & Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse

Over the last several years, the misuse of prescription drugs has become an epidemic in the United States. While many are aware of the opioid epidemic, the United States is still facing a major drug crisis in 2024.

According to the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's \(SAMHSA\) 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), "among the 8.9 million people who misused opioids in the past year, about 8.6 million misused prescription pain relievers"¹. Tackling this issue requires a multifaceted approach involving providers, pharmacists, PBMs, patients and the community. In this article, we put together some strategies to help identify and prevent prescription drug misuse from continuing.



Providers

Healthcare providers play a crucial role in identifying and addressing prescription drug misuse. Not only do providers have direct access to patients to monitor their health and look for warning signs of abuse, but they also have access to drug monitoring databases. "The creation of electronic databases known as prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs), is used to track the prescribing and dispensing of prescription drugs to patients. This serves as an important tool in identifying and preventing prescription drug misuse"². By accessing PDMP data, providers can make more informed decisions about prescribing and refer patients to appropriate treatment if necessary. In some states, access to these databases has resulted in lower rates of opioid prescriptions as well as lower rates of opioid-related deaths².

Pharmacists

Pharmacists can serve as the first line of defense against drug misuse. Pharmacists should be reviewing usage and checking for falsified prescriptions. In addition, a pharmacist should make sure an individual is aware of how their medication works and provide the individual with dosage instructions to ensure safe usage².

Prescription Benefit Managers (PBMs)

As intermediaries between insurance providers, pharmacies, and pharmaceutical companies, PBMs have significant influence over the distribution and utilization of prescription drugs.

One key strategy employed by PBMs is implementing strict clinical review processes for opioid prescriptions which helps ensure these powerful medications are only used when medically necessary and appropriate. This can prevent unnecessary overprescribing and limit the availability of opioids that could potentially be misused.

PBMs also work to promote the use of abuse-deterrent formulations of opioid medications. These specialized products are designed to make it more difficult for individuals to extract and misuse the active ingredients. By incentivizing the use of these formulations, PBMs can help reduce the risk of diversion and illicit use.

Patients & Community

Patients must also do their part by monitoring their medications. This includes following directions provided by their doctor, being aware of their medication's interactions with alcohol, consulting with their doctor before making any adjustments to their regimen, never using another's prescriptions, and storing dangerous drugs in safe places².

Another important strategy is the promotion of safe disposal options for unused or expired prescription medications. By making it easier for individuals to properly dispose of these drugs, we can reduce the risk of them being diverted or accidentally ingested by others. This can include the establishment of take-back programs, secure drop-off locations, and public education campaigns.

By leveraging the expertise and resources of healthcare providers, pharmacists, and PBMs, it is possible to develop a comprehensive and effective response to the prescription drug abuse crisis and help communities overcome the devastating impact of this public health emergency.

Sources:
1: <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH%202023%20Annual%20Release/2023-nsduh-main-highlights.pdf>
2: [https://nida.nih.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/how-can-prescription-drug-misuse-be-prevented#:~:text=Prescription%20drug%20monitoring%20programs%20\(PDMPs,and%20identifying%20prescription%20drug%20misuse](https://nida.nih.gov/publications/research-reports/misuse-prescription-drugs/how-can-prescription-drug-misuse-be-prevented#:~:text=Prescription%20drug%20monitoring%20programs%20(PDMPs,and%20identifying%20prescription%20drug%20misuse)

Why Employee Experience Management Should Still Be one of HR's Top Priorities

Spark Team at ADP (Originally published on ADP's blog, "Spark")

Employee experience management is still a top HR priority. By strategically designing the employee experience, you attract top talent, improve retention and get maximum employee engagement and productivity. Areas to consider include recruiting, recognition and rewards, wellness initiatives and transparent communication throughout the organization.

Employee experience management has a significant effect on performance. Gallup's 2023 Employee Engagement Survey found that 33 percent of U.S. workers are actively engaged at work. Organizations with higher employee experience scores tend to enjoy lower absenteeism, lower turnover, more productivity and greater profitability.

[Click here](#) to continue reading about employee experience management.

