

## ***Life Savers* global launch exposes opioid treatment**

**Penington Institute**, the not-for-profit convener of ***International Overdose Awareness Day***, is today launching the website, [Life Savers](https://lifesavers.global),<sup>1</sup> a brief guide to treatment for people concerned about their usage of opioid drugs, their family members and friends, as well as a resource for healthcare providers.

As the number of people developing dependencies and suffering harms from opioids increases, so too does the need for accurate information about their effects, risks, and benefits. *Life Savers* offers valuable information about different treatment options for opioid dependence and addiction.

*Life Savers* is a resource for people from all walks of life who have questions or concerns about all types of opioids, from pharmaceutical pain medications such as codeine, morphine, oxycodone and fentanyl, to typically illicit opioids such as heroin and opium.

*Life Savers* is being launched in conjunction with ***International Overdose Awareness Day***, which is held across the world on 31<sup>st</sup> August and seeks to prevent overdose and end the stigma of overdose, including for bereaved families.

Life Savers can be accessed here: <https://lifesavers.global>.

***Quotes attributable to Mr John Ryan, CEO of Penington Institute:***

“Empowering the community with knowledge about opioids and treatment options is an essential step to reducing accidental overdose. Buprenorphine and methadone have been shown to not only be effective treatments for opioid dependence, but they have many other benefits, including – most importantly – reducing the risk of fatal overdose.”

“All people should have the right to evidence-based healthcare, including medication-assisted treatment for opioid dependence.”

“*Life Savers* will provide extremely valuable information for people concerned about their own opioid usage, that of their friends and family members, and those who just want to learn more about treatment options for opioid dependence. It’s also about recognising the significant medical benefits of opioids, and the importance of maintaining access for patients in need.”

“Learning about opioids and the options available for treating opioid dependence is a vital component of health and wellbeing.”

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<sup>1</sup> Camurus AB has provided Penington Institute with an unrestricted grant to develop *Life Savers*.