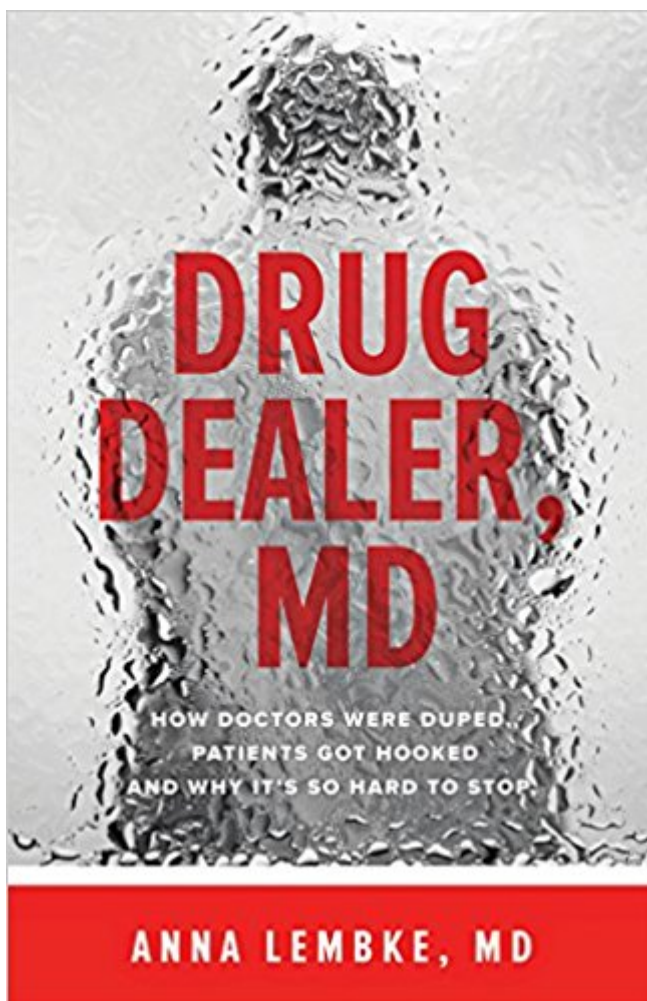


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# Drug Dealer, MD



## Synopsis

Three out of four people addicted to heroin probably started on a prescription opioid, according to the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the United States alone, 16,000 people die each year as a result of prescription opioid overdose. But perhaps the most frightening aspect of the prescription drug epidemic is that it's built on well-meaning doctors treating patients with real problems. In *Drug Dealer, MD*, Dr. Anna Lembke uncovers the unseen forces driving opioid addiction nationwide. Combining case studies from her own practice with vital statistics drawn from public policy, cultural anthropology, and neuroscience, she explores the complex relationship between doctors and patients, the science of addiction, and the barriers to successfully addressing drug dependence and addiction. Even when addiction is recognized by doctors and their patients, she argues, many doctors don't know how to treat it, connections to treatment are lacking, and insurance companies won't pay for rehab. Full of extensive interviews with health care providers, pharmacists, social workers, hospital administrators, insurance company executives, journalists, economists, advocates, and patients and their families, *Drug Dealer, MD*, is for anyone whose life has been touched in some way by addiction to prescription drugs. Dr. Lembke gives voice to the millions of Americans struggling with prescription drugs while singling out the real culprits behind the rise in opioid addiction: cultural narratives that promote pills as quick fixes, pharmaceutical corporations in cahoots with organized medicine, and a new medical bureaucracy focused on the bottom line that favors pills, procedures, and patient satisfaction over wellness. Dr. Lembke concludes that the prescription drug epidemic is a symptom of a faltering health care system, the solution for which lies in rethinking how health care is delivered.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

My wife died 3 years ago from a paranoia induced by prescription drugs. I wanted to see if progress has been made. The book showed me the perspectives of a medical professional.

As the opioids epidemic grows this book provides a sharp analysis of its complex causes and begin to outline possible treatments.

In our part of the country, it seems we have a severe opioid addiction problem. This book opened my eyes to a probable root cause.

Really touches on how easily one can get hooked. A life without drugs is possible Dr Lembke explains. It starts with education.

Drug Dealer, MD is an excellent book that is both accessible and useful to patients and their families, but it is also a must read for health care providers and, more importantly, those who control the levers of power in Washington- because, although they might not have meant to, they share some responsibility for the current opioid epidemic. Dr. Lembke spreads the blame for this crisis beyond the usual suspects (patients, doctors, insurance companies and Big Pharma) to groups not traditionally thought of as playing a role in the creation of this problem: the Joint Commission that accredits hospitals, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and Congress. The real strength of this book is its holistic approach which ends up demonstrating the impact of the unintended consequences of well meaning health care policy. So, this is not just a story of pills, but of the role patient satisfaction surveys, electronic medical records, and the move toward integrated health care systems have played in the creation of this crisis. That is a story not usually told- which

is why this is such an important book.

I've now purchased several of these books to give to friends and family for the complete overview of just how this country finds itself in an opioid epidemic, now the leading cause of death in Americans under age 50.

Super read. I am an addiction specialist. I have read extensively in the field and there was useful information presented that I was either not familiar with or had never considered.

Thank you for writing this book. This should be required reading at all med schools. Hopefully, we can change the way we approach pain and prescription pain killers.

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