A new resource is available to help combat the rapidly escalating opioid crisis. This identification tool is called the Opioid ID Marker, designed and developed by Tri-Star Technologies to help curb prescription drug counterfeiting and misuse. Employing proven ultraviolet laser technology, the Opioid ID Marker indelibly marks each individual tablet or capsule at the point of sale such as dispensaries, pharmacies and health clinics. The marker applies unique identifying information in encrypted format such as the names of patients and prescribing physicians, the prescription number, and other data. This information is uploaded to a cloud database as the prescription is being filled. Local and federal law enforcement personnel can instantly access the database nationally and globally via smart phone with proprietary software that identifies and traces each prescription back to the intended patient and prescribing physician. If there is no match, a break anywhere in the chain from distribution to consumption may have occurred, then the product is suspect and can be confiscated.
1. **What is the opioid marking system and how does it work?**
   It is a comprehensive method that provides uniquely identifying information (via direct marking on opioid tablets and capsules at the point of sale, i.e., pharmacies, clinics, dispensaries, etc. Once the drugs are identified, they will carry unique information that allows them to subsequently be tracked back to the original patient and their prescribing physician. This provides a tool for law enforcement (i.e., DEA) to identify and potentially confiscate opioid medications that do not match the original intended patient.

2. **What components make up the opioid marking system?**
   The heart of the system is an ID printer that utilizes a multi-patented cold laser technology. This device has high resolution capability that can print permanent, unalterable text, barcodes and graphics on the surface of tablet or capsule. These markings can be made so small that they are invisible to the naked eye, adding another layer of security to the marking system. Once the information is printed, it is uploaded to a secure cloud-based database, the second component of the system. The third and final component is the scanning tool/device. This can be any smartphone loaded with proprietary scanning software. Once the medication is scanned, the software searches the database. If information in the database matches the identity of the person in possession of the opioid, then the tracking is complete and validated. If the information does not match, then further action can be taken, such as confiscation of the opioid.

3. **What information is collected in the database?**
   The database contains information that links the opioid medication to the patient and the prescribing physician. This information is uploaded to the database at the point of sale as the prescriptions are being prepared and printed by the ID marking device. Information printed on the medication (i.e., tracking code, prescription number, etc.) will link to the aforementioned information loaded in the database.

4. **How does the ID marking system help curb illegal opioid distribution?**
   The system is designed to prevent/discourage illegal distribution of prescribed opioid medications. Since each opioid tablet or capsule is uniquely identified with patient data, any medication that does not match the tracking information is subject to confiscation. Additionally, anyone else in possession of this medication can face legal consequences for illegal distribution.

5. **What software is needed to identify/track opioid medication?**
   A dedicated app (for law enforcement only) is loaded on a smartphone (iPhone, Android, etc.), which will allow the user to scan the opioid product. This software searches the database for corresponding patient information.