



EMS Information Bulletin 2014-04

DATE: November 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Naloxone

TO: Pennsylvania EMS Education Institutes, EMS Agencies, EMS Practitioners

FROM: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

Governor Corbett recently signed legislation, Act 139 of 2014, allowing first responders (law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS) to administer naloxone to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. Naloxone (Narcan) is a drug that on a short term basis counters the effects of an opioid overdose. Additionally, individuals, such as friends or family members in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid related overdose, may also receive a prescription for naloxone. The law also provides immunity from prosecution for those responding to and reporting overdoses. According to Act 139, a first responder agency (non-Department of Health licensed) wishing to obtain a supply of naloxone:

- Must complete a Department of Health approved training
- Must enter into a written agreement with an EMS agency
- Must have the EMS medical director or another physician consent to the agreement and issue a prescription or standing order for naloxone

A copy of Act 139 can be found at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2013&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=1164&pn=2328>

Recently, Kaleo Pharmaceuticals donated 4,000 EVZIO™ naloxone auto-injectors to Pennsylvania (2,000 units – 2 injectors per unit). The Department of Health has begun speaking with some EMS agencies in counties with high overdose incidences. In an effort to get the word out and gauge interest from local law enforcement and firefighters, the Department of Health has also sent communication to them directing them to contact their area EMS agencies if they are

interested in receiving the Kaleo donation. As an EMS agency you may hear from local law enforcement and firefighters who are interested in receiving the donation.

If your EMS agency and local law enforcement or firefighter agency would like to partner to receive the donation, please let the Department of Health know and we will provide you with more detailed information, next steps and answer any questions you may have. You can contact Melisa Rader at merader@pa.gov

Additionally, the Department of Health and Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs are working together on an approved training, instructional materials and a sample agreement between EMS agencies and law enforcement and firefighters. As these are completed we will make them available on our website.