



Position Statement for PEHSC – final

Supports the Pennsylvania Department of Health's ability to manage any public health crisis including the increasing concerns associated with opioid overdoses through the authority as provided within the Emergency Medical Services System Act 37 of 2009. This would include the development of timely and coordinated statewide efforts to meet patient needs.

Supports the increased access to naloxone in cases of an opioid overdose through the creation of a naloxone training and administration program targeting individuals who wish to offer this program in their community and who are commonly in a position to initiate an early response to this medical emergency. These individuals would include EMR's, EMT's, AEMT's, law enforcement officers and fire service personnel.

Naloxone has been proven to be an effective, fast-acting, inexpensive and non-addictive opioid antagonist with minimal side effects, when used at the proper dosage, for preventing the often fatal respiratory arrest which characterizes the advanced stage of drug overdose. Naloxone has been administered effectively by trained Pennsylvania Department of Health certified/recognized professionals working within a licensed EMS agency for many years.

Supports emergency medical services agencies and providers to act in the educational role to provide a state approved and valid educational program to include medical oversight in the appropriate and efficient response to drug overdose, including the recognition of opioid overdose symptoms, respiratory management, the proper technique for administration of the opioid antagonist (either by intramuscular injection or by nasal administration), and essential follow-up procedures as per an identified state EMS protocol.

Supports the tracking of treatment, and outcome of opioid overdose events encountered by EMS.

Supports efforts of the PA Legislature to provide liability protection to ANY person or entity that provides or assists in the delivery (including the provision of medical direction) of Naloxone to a person experiencing a suspected opioid overdose.