



**EMS Information Bulletin 2018-02**

**DATE:** January 17, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Updated Naloxone Standing Order

**TO:** Pennsylvania EMS Agencies and EMS Practitioners

**FROM:** Raphael Barishansky, Deputy Secretary  
Health Planning and Assessment  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
PA Department of Health  
(717) 787-8740

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raphael Barishansky", with a horizontal line underneath.

In response to the opioid crisis, Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine has updated her standing order for Naloxone Prescription for Overdose Prevention. [Standing Order DOH-001-2018](#), published on January 10, 2018, to now include specific language for a naloxone leave-behind program.

Standing Order DOH-001-2018 states:

*“This standing order authorizes Department-certified EMS providers or Department-licensed EMS Agencies who have responded to an individual experiencing an opioid-related overdose (At-Risk Person), and who are therefore in a position to assist that At-Risk Person, to leave behind naloxone with the At-Risk Person or with family members, friends, or other persons who are in a position to assist the At-Risk Person, along with instructions to follow the naloxone package insert directions and the guidance provided in Standing Order DOH-002-2017, available on the Department’s website.”*

EMS agencies that elect to leave behind naloxone with the “At-Risk Person,” or anyone identified in the previous verbiage, shall provide the person with specific instructions to follow, as well as the package insert for directions on how to administer naloxone. Also, the EMS agency shall advise the person receiving the leave-behind naloxone of the department’s guidance found in Standing Order DOH-002-2017 as published on the department’s website.

Please note that Standing Order DOH-001-2018 does not replace any existing EMS protocol, and EMS providers should continue to follow appropriate treatment and transportation protocols.

The department considers EMS agencies and EMS providers participating in the naloxone leave-behind program to be operating within the scope and under the authority of the Emergency Medical Services System Act, 35 Pa. C.S. §§ 8101-8157, and the department's corresponding regulations, 28 Pa. Code §§ 1001-1033.

In the upcoming week, the department will be providing an FAQ, which will be posted to [EMS FAQ Page](#) on the department's website and updated as needed.