

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Naloxone Administration for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics (Acting in the capacity of an EMT)

In an effort to reduce the burden associated with opioid overdose in the community the Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services has issued waiver number 14-8:40A-10.1/8:41A-5.1-004 granting relief from the provision(s) NJAC 8:40A – 10.1 Scope of Practice and N.J.A.C. 8:41A – 5.1 Scope of Practice. This waiver was granted in accordance with PL 2013, 46, known as the “Overdose Prevention Act”. It applies to all certified New Jersey EMTs and Paramedics authorizing them to administer Naloxone to individuals experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, opioid overdose to prevent fatality often associated with an opioid overdose.

Q. What is Public Law 2013, Chapter 46?

A. Public Law 2013, Chapter 46 is also known as the “Overdose Prevention Act” (the Act). The Act provides immunity for civil and criminal liability for non-health care professionals who administer in an emergency naloxone hydrochloride, or any other similarly acting drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, to a person believed in good faith to be experiencing an opioid overdose. The Act also provides civil, criminal, and professional disciplinary immunity for health care professionals and pharmacists involved in prescribing or dispensing the opioid antidote in accordance with the Act.

Q. Where can I find additional information regarding Naloxone administration for EMTs and Paramedics?

A. You can find additional information by clicking on the “Naloxone (Narcan®) Program” tab at www.state.nj.us/health/ems.

Q. Who can administer Naloxone?

A. EMTs who have successfully completed the “New Jersey EMS Response to an Opiate Overdose Naloxone” education program and off duty paramedics who are providing EMS service for a BLS registered agency. If an EMT is providing services for multiple agencies, the medical director shall determine if additional education is required.

Q. Does my agency have to register?

A. Yes. All BLS agencies are required to be registered with the Department prior to implementing the Naloxone Program.

Q. What is needed to register my agency?

A. To register your agency for the Naloxone Program you will need:

1. Agency demographic information
2. Agency contact demographic information
3. Medical Command Physician demographic information

Q. Is there a Registration fee?

A. No.

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Q. How do I register my agency?

A. You may register your agency by completing the following steps:

1. Log onto <http://www.state.nj.us.health/ems>
2. Click on the “Naloxone (Narcan®) Program”
3. Select “Agency Registration”
4. Click on the link to access registration
5. Complete the entire registration form and hit submit
6. You will receive a confirmation number upon completion

Q. Is there a state protocol for administration of Naloxone (Narcan®)?

A. Yes, you may locate and view the state protocol by clicking on the “Naloxone (Narcan®) Program” tab at <http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems>

Q. Does the administration of Naloxone (Narcan®) have to be documented?

A. The administration of Naloxone (Narcan®) shall always be documented on the approved agency patient care record. The patient care record should always be shared with the receiving hospital.

Q. Does the administration of Naloxone (Narcan®) have to be reported?

A. Yes. The administration of Naloxone (Narcan®) shall be submitted to the Department through an approved web-based reporting method accessed through <http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems> within 24 hours of administration.

Q. After the administration of Naloxone (Narcan®) is Advanced Life Support (ALS) still necessary?

A. Yes. ALS shall be requested, but transport should not be delayed due to ALS proximity.

Q. What does the Department of Health Waiver state?

A. The waiver applies to all certified New Jersey Emergency Medical Technicians-Basics and Emergency Medical Technicians-Paramedics, provided they have successfully completed an educational program recognized by the Department of Health; are a member of a DOH registered BLS EMS agency; administer the medication in accordance with established clinical protocol; generate a record for the individual treated; and report the use of Naloxone (Narcan®) in a form acceptable to the Department of Health.

Q. My agency is not registered for the Naloxone (Narcan®) Program. Can an EMT or Paramedic carry and administer Naloxone (Narcan®) if they have their own prescription or have been educated by another agency?

A. No. Administration is only authorized under a registered agency with a Medical Director.

Q. What is an acceptable quality assurance process?

A. The agency Medical Director is responsible for developing and implementing a quality assurance/quality improvement process.

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Q. Who is authorized to conduct the educational program for Naloxone (Narcan®) Administration?

A. The agency's medical director is responsible for providing and/or approving a designee to provide the Department approved education program.

Q. Who determines the scope of practice for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics?

A. The Commissioner of the Department of Health determines the EMS Scope of Practice, and no one, including the medical director, is permitted to alter the scope of practice. However, the medical director has the authority to limit or prohibit parts of the EMS of Scope of Practice, including the administration of intranasal or intramuscular naloxone.

Q. I am a New Jersey state certified paramedic. Can I administer the Naloxone (Narcan®) via IV?

A. No. Although an EMS provider certified as a paramedic may use a number of routes to administer Naloxone (Narcan®) when working on an ALS unit, Emergency Medical Technicians are strictly limited to the intranasal and intramuscular auto injector route only.

Q. I am a New Jersey state certified Paramedic. Do I need to complete the New Jersey EMS Response to an Opiate Overdose Naloxone (Narcan®) Program?

A. No. If a New Jersey State certified Paramedic is providing EMT service with a registered BLS agency they must be familiar with and follow the state protocol for administration for EMTs.

Q. Can I receive elective credits for the New Jersey EMS Response to an Opiate Overdose Naloxone (Narcan®) Program?

A. Yes. This program is worth one (1) elective credit as long as the program has been applied for and approved through the Department's Learning Management System.

Q. Will this extended scope of practice be included in the initial and refresher courses for EMTs?

A. Yes. The Department has implemented the administration of a Naloxone (Narcan®) into both the initial and refresher courses.