



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation

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Governor

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Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: EMS System Administrators
EMS Medical Directors
EMS Training Officers

FROM: Tripp Winslow, MD *TW*
NC EMS Medical Director

SUBJECT: Naloxone Scope of Practice

DATE: March 12, 2014

Recently there has been a large increase in narcotic overdoses throughout the nation and North Carolina. Concerned citizens and stakeholder groups have done some very good work to help address this very serious problem. Many of these groups have encouraged law enforcement agencies in North Carolina to provide Naloxone to overdose patients. The NC Office of EMS supports prompt and effective care to patients in need of emergency services. The NC Office of EMS also wants to insure that all prehospital care receives appropriate local medical oversight and is carried out in a safe manner. As a result, the NC Office of EMS has made the following requests of the NC Medical Board.

The NC Office of EMS is requesting a change in the scope of practice regarding Naloxone for Medical Responders and other Emergency Responders. Currently, Medical Responders are not allowed to administer Naloxone under the current NC Medical Board Approved Medication List. The Office of EMS is requesting that the NC Medical Board add intranasal Naloxone to the scope of practice for Medical Responders in North Carolina.

The Office of EMS is also requesting that the NC Medical Board allow law enforcement officers and any individual authorized to provide medical assistance under the system's first responder program to administer intranasal Naloxone with the following requirements which must be approved by the local county EMS Medical Director:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/EMS/ems.htm>

Office of Emergency Medical Services

Phone: 919-855-3935 • Fax: 919-733-7021

Location: 1201 Umstead Drive • Dorothea Dix Hospital Campus • Raleigh, NC 27603

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1. They must administer the Naloxone under the medical oversight of the county EMS Medical Director and be incorporated into the respective EMS System in which they are administering the Naloxone.
2. They must receive appropriate training and continuing education as approved by the local county medical director.
3. The Naloxone must be administered as part of a protocol and procedure approved by the county EMS Medical Director and the NC Office of EMS.
4. All administration of Naloxone must be reviewed by the EMS Peer Review/Quality Management Committee of the EMS System which functions under the supervision of the local county EMS medical director.

The medical director of the NC Office of EMS must approve each county's Law Enforcement Naloxone administration program before it can be implemented.

The NC Medical Board has not yet approved the change in scope of practice requests for Naloxone. This notice is being sent to NC prehospital providers so that they are aware of the likely change in scope of practice. There is a high likelihood that the NC Medical Board will approve these requests. However, until these requests are approved by the NC Medical Board, all EMS agencies should be aware that use of Naloxone by medical responders or law enforcement officers when they are responding as part of an EMS system will be considered outside scope of practice. The Office of EMS anticipates that the NC Medical Board will consider our request in mid-to-late March.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. My email address is jwinslow@wakehealth.edu.

cc: OEMS Staff