



National Association of State EMS Officials

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States Achieve Major Milestone on Treatment of Suspected Opioid Overdose by EMS

March 20, 2018 (Falls Church, VA) Since 2015, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) has provided technical assistance to its members to improve state policy efforts on the use of opioid antagonists for suspected opioid overdose in out-of-hospital settings. A campaign of awareness and education as well as a partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to revise the National EMS Scope of Practice Model to include the administration of opioid antagonists by EMS providers at the basic life support level has resulted in 100% compliance among states to authorize the practice at all EMS licensure levels.

“This achievement marks a true commitment by the states to serve and protect the public through this public health epidemic. NASEMSO remains committed in its efforts to make sure that EMS personnel have the tools they need to provide effective and safe care for victims of opioid overdose,” noted R. Keith Wages, NASEMSO President.

A companion project to develop and disseminate an evidence based guideline on the administration of the opioid antagonist, naloxone, is currently underway and expected to be published in Fall 2018. More information is available at <https://www.nasemso.org/Projects/Naloxone/index.asp>.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths from drug overdose have been rising steadily over the past two decades and have become the leading cause of injury death in the United States. On average, 115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose.

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The National Association of State EMS Officials is a leading national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, and community-based EMS programs. Its members are the leaders of their state and territory EMS systems.