



Regional Emergency Medical Organization

Office of the Medical Director

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REMAC Advisory 2014-03

Re: Naloxone and the REMO EMS System

Effective date: Current

New York State is in the midst of an opioid abuse epidemic – and the number of opioid-related overdoses and deaths has increased dramatically. Naloxone is a drug used to reverse the effects of these opioid overdoses, but specific training is required to use this medication effectively. Following the successful pilot program run through REMO, the Bureau of EMS has added the administration of intranasal naloxone to the BLS scope of practice.

Naloxone training occurs either through EMS training, which is authorized through Article 30 of the Public Health Law, or through Community Access training under Article 33. Target audiences for Community Access Naloxone range from the lay public, including drug users and their family members, to law enforcement. At many of these training programs naloxone is being distributed. This distribution has led to some confusion.

- Community Access naloxone distribution is intended for any member of the community who requests it and may have a need. Everyone trained receives a personal naloxone kit. You may come upon individuals who have been administered naloxone by a lay-person through this program.
- Shared Access naloxone distribution is intended for agencies such as law enforcement or first response fire departments where responding personnel are not all credentialed by the Department of Health. Naloxone distribution will be by agency policy and may be shared access among members.
- EMS agency training is for CFR, EMR or EMT personnel at an EMS agency.

To clarify for EMS:

- No EMS provider is precluded from attending a Community Access naloxone training session, receiving naloxone upon completion of that training, and using it in the event of an emergency while off duty.
- Attending a Community Access training program is not a substitute for Bureau of EMS approved agency training.
- All BLS agencies are being strongly encouraged to participate in the BLS naloxone program and all supplies are available through REMO.
- All agencies involved in EMS first response that may be first on the scene of an overdose call are encouraged to participate in a first response naloxone program. REMO will guide you to the correct training and assist with supply of naloxone.
- Regional BLS providers with agency affiliations **must** complete REMO agency-specific naloxone training in order to administer naloxone on EMS calls.
- Providers who have completed community access naloxone training are reminded to review their agency policy on responding to calls when not on duty, as well as to review agency policy regarding carrying medication as a responding agency member.