



NADCP

**National Association of
Drug Court Professionals**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ON THE AVAILABILITY OF OPIATE OVERDOSE REVERSAL MEDICATIONS

WHEREAS, unintentional overdose deaths from illicit opiates such as heroin and prescription opioids such as oxycodone have more than tripled in the past fifteen years¹; *and*

WHEREAS, naloxone hydrochloride (naloxone or Narcan) is currently the treatment of choice to reverse potentially fatal respiratory suppression caused by opiate and opioid overdose²; *and*

WHEREAS, naloxone is non-addictive, non-intoxicating, and poses a minimal risk of serious medical side effects³; *and*

WHEREAS, naloxone may be administered intranasally in a safe, rapid and effective manner by non-medically trained laypersons⁴; *and*

WHEREAS, studies in the U.S. and Scotland have determined that distributing naloxone to at-risk persons, their friends and loved ones, and other potential bystanders significantly reduced opiate overdose deaths among released prisoners and other individuals⁵; *and*

¹ Meyer, R., Patel, A. M., Rattana, S. K., Quock, T. P., & Mody, S. H. (2014). Prescription opioid abuse: A literature review of the clinical and economic burden in the United States. *Population Health Management*, DOI: 10.1089/pop.2013.0098.

² Barton, E. D., Ramos, J., Colwell, C., Benson, J., Baily, J., & Dunn, W. (2002). Intranasal administration of naloxone by paramedics. *Prehospital Emergency Care*, 6, 54-58.

³ Id.

⁴ Kim, D., Irwin, K. S., & Khoshnood, K. (2009). Expanded access to naloxone: Options for critical response to the epidemic of opioid overdose mortality. *American Journal of Public Health*, 99(3), 402-407.

⁵ National Institute on Drug Abuse. (March 4, 2014), Nora's Blog: Naloxone—A potential lifesaver, at <http://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2014/02/naloxone-potential-lifesaver>.

WHEREAS, more than 10,000 potentially fatal opiate overdoses have been reversed by naloxone which was administered by non-medically trained laypersons⁶; *and*

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Assistance provides a clearinghouse of information and resources to help state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies administer naloxone⁷; *and*

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) supports the administration of naloxone during overdose emergencies by non-medically trained persons, including at-risk patients, their families and other first responders⁸; *and*

WHEREAS, several countries permit members of the general public to lawfully administer naloxone for the purpose of saving a life⁹:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1. NADCP supports efforts to train Drug Court personnel, probation officers, law enforcement and other persons who are likely to be first responders to opiate or opioid overdoses on the safe and effective administration of naloxone and other overdose-reversal medications.**
- 2. Consistent with local laws and policies, NADCP supports efforts to make naloxone and other overdose-reversal medications available to individuals who are likely to be first responders to opiate and opioid overdoses.**

Approved by the External Policy Committee: 7/25/2015.

Approved by the NADCP Board of Directors: 7/26/2015.

National Naloxone Programme Scotland, Information Services Division. (2014). Naloxone kits issued in 2013/2104 and trends in opiate-related deaths. At <https://isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/2014-10-28/2014-10-28-Naloxone-Report.pdf?2581423522>.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Community-based opioid overdose prevention programs providing naloxone—United States, 2010. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 61(06), 101-105.

⁷ www.bja.gov/naloxone.

⁸ World Health Organization. (2014). Guidelines on community management of opioid overdose, at http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/137462/1/9789241548816_eng.pdf?ua=1.

⁹ Strang, J., Kelleher, M., Best, D., Mayet, S., & Manning, V. (2006). Emergency naloxone for heroin overdose—should it be available over the counter? *British Medical Journal*, 333, 615-615.