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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN			
Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
2023-08-24-01	Maine EMS Naloxone Leave-Behind Program		August 24, 2023
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Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP (Maine EMS Director)		
<p>Overview: Based on legislation enacted by the 131st Legislature and the next version of the Maine EMS Protocols (anticipated on December 1, 2023) EMS clinicians will be expected to offer patients, their family, and friends on scene leave-behind naloxone if the patient is suspected of an opioid overdose and refuses transport.</p> <p><i>In anticipation of this change in protocols, please take the following actions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinicians – Complete the “Maine EMS Naloxone Leave-Behind Dispensation Training” on MEMSEd before December 1, 2023 • Clinicians – Review the required documentation expected in MEFIRS • Service Leaders – Order free naloxone kits for dispensation and the associated printed materials from https://getmainenaloxone.org/ems/. <p>For more information about each of these items, please see the bulletin below. If you have any additional questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to the Maine EMS Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Program at EMS.SUD@maine.gov.</p>			

NOTE: Earlier this summer there was some confusing media coverage regarding the applicability of this requirement, please note that this legislation and associated protocol only applies to EMS clinicians participating in a coordinated response to an emergency medical call for service. It is not applicable to bystanders, law enforcement, etc. who just so happen to also be licensed EMS clinicians.

The 131st Legislature passed legislation (LD 981) this year requiring Maine EMS clinicians to *dispense* naloxone to patients, their family, or friends who are on scene following an opioid overdose where the patient was administered naloxone and subsequently refuses transport to the emergency department. The December 1, 2023 Version of the Maine EMS Protocols will establish an expectation that all EMS clinicians will offer approved naloxone leave-behind kits and associated materials following any opioid overdose where the patient refuses transport. EMS clinicians must complete the online MEMSEd training entitled “Maine EMS Naloxone ‘Leave Behind’ Dispensation Training” before dispensing naloxone leave-behind kits. The Naloxone “Leave Behind” Dispensation Training does not impact EMS clinicians’ authorization

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to *administer* naloxone for the clinical management of a patient suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose.

Maine EMS is working collaboratively with other state partners to provide naloxone leave-behind kits and required printed educational materials to EMS agencies at no charge for distribution by clinicians. EMS agencies must request naloxone leave-behind kits from the state by going to: <https://getmainenalozone.org/ems/>. There is no cost for agencies to obtain leave-behind kits or the printed materials. For an overview of how to request naloxone leave-behind kits please reference a short YouTube Tutorial video made by colleagues at the University of Maine Orono: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0CZO5FXuGz0>. *These kits are specifically intended for use with the Naloxone Leave-Behind Program and should only be used for that purpose.*

When an EMS activation is documented as a suspected opioid overdose, a required question will ask, “Did you dispense a Maine EMS-approved naloxone kit for future use in case of a suspected opioid overdose?” If the answer is “YES,” the clinician will be prompted to answer:

- To whom and provide additional information about who they left the kit with.
- Did you perform point-of-care training for using an approved naloxone kit?
- Has the recipient ever administered naloxone before?

If the clinician answers “NO,” they will be prompted to answer why they did not leave a kit behind.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about the Naloxone Leave-Behind Program or any other SUD-related programming, please don’t hesitate to contact the Maine EMS SUD Program at EMS.SUD@maine.gov.