

LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK STATE AS OPIOID OVERDOSE RESPONDERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is New York State's opioid overdose prevention program?

Since April 2006, New York State has had a program regulated by the Department of Health through which eligible, registered entities provide training to individuals in the community on how to recognize an overdose and how to respond to it appropriately. The applicable law is Public Health Law Section 3309 and the regulations are in 10 NYCRR 80.138. The appropriate responses to an opioid overdose include calling 911 and administering naloxone (Narcan), an opioid antagonist which reverses the potentially life-threatening consequences of an overdose. Eligible entities for these programs include individual prescribers (physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners), drug treatment programs, health care facilities, local and state government agencies, community-based organizations, secondary educational institutions, pharmacies and public safety agencies. Public safety agencies do not need to be registered programs in order for their officers to be trained.

Is this program successful?

Over 150 programs have registered with the Department of Health, and more than 20,000 overdose responders have been trained. These individuals have successfully administered naloxone more than 900 times according to reports that have been submitted to the State. The actual number of reversals these responders have been responsible for is likely to be substantially higher.

Why can't we rely solely on EMS to respond to overdoses?

We can and should continue to rely on EMS to respond to overdoses—but not to the exclusion of others who may be the first on the scene. Every second counts in an overdose. It is a medical emergency. With appropriate training, administering naloxone is relatively simple. Having trained individuals in the community makes saving lives easier for EMS.

Why are we training law enforcement officers?

Law enforcement personnel are often the first to arrive on the scene of an overdose. Sometimes they are responding to an EMS call and sometimes, in the course of their work, they just happen to encounter someone who has overdosed. We want to ensure that these officers have the training and the necessary tool, naloxone, to make a difference when it matters most. Many law enforcement officers are already trained in using AEDs (automated external defibrillators) or in administering CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Adding naloxone to their set of tools will help save lives.

How does one get trained to save the lives of people who have overdosed?

A simple, single session generally lasting less than one hour is all that is necessary for an officer to be trained in recognizing and responding to an opioid overdose. The training is likely to be a joint effort between one of New York State's registered opioid overdose prevention programs and either a single law enforcement agency or a group of agencies, perhaps as part of a regional training. A standard curriculum has been developed to guide

LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK STATE AS OPIOID OVERDOSE RESPONDERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

these trainings. If your agency is a certified basic life support emergency medical service and if you are either a certified first responder or an emergency medical technician at the basic level, you should receive a specialized EMS training.

How will I know when training sessions will be offered?

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services utilizes a statewide email directory known as DCJS Contact to announce the availability of training courses. DCJS has already announced many opioid overdose training opportunities and will continue to announce them as soon as they are available for release. To enroll, click [here](#) to access the enrollment form. You may also view upcoming training opportunities by visiting the DCJS training calendar <http://calendar.dcjs.state.ny.us/>

Can a general topics instructor train other law enforcement officers?

Yes. General topics instructors who have successfully completed an approved opioid overdose and intranasal naloxone training for law enforcement are appropriate for training other law enforcement officers. Instruction should be coordinated with a New York State Department of Health registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and one of its affiliated prescribers.

Are there training materials available for use by law enforcement instructors?

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, the New York State Department of Health, Albany Medical Center, the Harm Reduction Coalition and other local partners have collaborated to develop instructional materials for distribution to law enforcement agencies. The materials can be obtained by attending a train-the-trainer session or by emailing DCJS at OPS.GeneralPolicing@dcjs.ny.gov and requesting a course CD. A mailing address and contact name must be provided in order to send the compact disc. The training materials were developed for use by any individual or organization that will train law enforcement officers on the use of naloxone. Approved instructors must read through the Administrative Guide located in Appendix B of the instructor manual before conducting the training, so that they can receive the free kits and their students can receive a DCJS certification upon completion.

How do I get naloxone?

In order to furnish naloxone to law enforcement officers, three requirements must be met: 1) the officers must have completed a training which conforms with DCJS- and DOH-approved instructional materials; 2) a patient-specific or non-patient specific prescription must be issued for the medicine by a prescriber affiliated with a NYS DOH-registered opioid overdose prevention program; and 3) the naloxone should be furnished either by the prescriber personally or by someone designated by the prescriber in a non-patient specific prescription.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK STATE AS OPIOID OVERDOSE RESPONDERS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why is a prescription necessary for naloxone?

Although naloxone is not a controlled substance, it is still a prescribed drug. All prescribed drugs require a prescription, and all prescriptions must come from someone who is legally authorized to provide them. Health care professionals – who are defined in Public Health Law 3309 as persons “licensed, registered, or authorized pursuant to title eight of the education law to prescribe prescription drugs”—may prescribe naloxone to law enforcement officers by either a patient-specific prescription or a non-patient specific prescription.

Can naloxone be shared among officers in the same agency?

A non-patient specific prescription eliminates the need for law enforcement officers to have unique, personal overdose kits dispensed to them under a patient-specific prescription. Law enforcement officers can instead have shared access to – and use of – naloxone dispensed to the organization for which they work under a non-patient specific prescription (i.e. equip each patrol car with naloxone instead of each officer). Your agency’s policies and procedures should address this sharing.

Does my agency need to do anything special so that I and my colleagues can get naloxone?

Yes. Your agency should develop policies and procedures that address its officers intervening in overdoses and administering naloxone. The Municipal Police Training Council has adopted a Naloxone Administration and Maintenance Model Policy for agencies to utilize when developing their own policies and procedures. The model policy can be downloaded from the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal via accessing resources > reference library > law enforcement > MPTC.

How should naloxone be maintained?

As a general rule, naloxone should be kept as close to room temperature as possible. It should also be kept out of direct sunlight. Your agency’s policies and procedures should address the maintenance of naloxone.

How long can naloxone be kept?

Naloxone should be within the expiration date that appears on its packaging. Your agency’s policies and procedures should address maintaining naloxone consistent with its expiration date.

Will I have to use a needle to administer naloxone?

No. All of the naloxone being provided to law enforcement officers will be for intranasal (up-the-nose) administration. You will receive hands-on training on how this is done.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK STATE AS OPIOID OVERDOSE RESPONDERS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Can the naloxone harm me or others around me?

No.

How do I get refills?

This will be addressed at your training. Generally the refills will come from the medical provider dispensing the naloxone to your agency.

Will a certificate of completion be issued by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services?

Yes. Individuals completing the training will receive a training certificate issued from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services and the individual's training record documented in the Police and Peace Officer Registry will be updated.

How do I obtain naloxone when my instructor(s) train members of my agency utilizing the DCJS and DOH approved training materials?

Included within the training materials is an administrative guide containing a list of currently acceptable options to equip trained opioid overdose responders with naloxone in your agency.