



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All MA Licensed Ambulance Services
CC: EMCAB Members
FROM: Dr. Jon Burstein, EMS Medical Director
DATE: July 6, 2020; updated November 30, 2020
RE: Emergency Update to Protocol 6.13, Leave Behind Naloxone

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is releasing an emergency update to the Statewide Treatment Protocols' Protocol 6.13 Leave Behind Naloxone, to better address the continuing opioid epidemic.

One step to help reduce the public health impact of opioid overdoses is to expand the availability of naloxone to high-risk patients and those close to them. OEMS is therefore updating Protocol 6.13, to allow this medical-director-option protocol to apply when EMS units respond to an emergency call for an overdose patient, whom they have treated with naloxone and who is showing recovery, whether the patient refuses hospital transport or not.

The process remains the same: In such a situation, if an ambulance service's affiliate hospital medical director has approved the service using Protocol 6.13, its EMS personnel may leave special naloxone kits purchased and stocked by the service for this purpose, with the patient or family member/partner/friend on scene. These kits must be properly packaged with instructions to allow for easy use by non-medical personnel, and would be carried in addition to the unit's normal stock of naloxone for administration by EMS personnel to patients. The Department has determined that leaving behind such civilian naloxone kits as a result of a specific emergency call in accordance with this Protocol is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 94C § 19B and the obligations of ambulance services under their Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registrations (MCSRs).

Please share this with your affiliate hospital medical directors. If you have any questions, contact Renee Atherton, at renee.atherton@mass.gov.