



1 Emergency Aid Medication to Patients Prescribed Opiates”.

2 **§16-5X-2. Definitions.**

3 As used in this article:

4 (1) “Opiates” or “opioid drugs” means drugs which are members  
5 of the natural and synthetic opium family, including but not  
6 limited to, heroin, morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone,  
7 hydrocodone, fentanyl, and hydromorphone.

8 (2) “Prescriber” means an individual currently licensed and  
9 authorized by law to prescribe drugs or drug therapy devices, in  
10 the course of their professional practice. These include but are  
11 not limited to, allopathic and osteopathic physicians, physician  
12 assistants or osteopathic physician assistants who hold a  
13 certificate to prescribe drugs, advanced nurse practitioners who  
14 hold a certificate to prescribe drugs, optometrists, podiatrists,  
15 and others as allowed by law.

16 (3) “Naloxone” means naloxone hydrochloride, an opioid  
17 antagonist, also known as “Narcan”, approved by the federal Food  
18 and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opiate or opioid  
19 drug overdose by intranasal administration.

20 (4) “Necessary education and information” means educating and  
21 training individuals to prevent, recognize and respond to opiate  
22 overdose, and that provides at a minimum training in:

23 (A) The cause of opiate overdose;

24 (B) How to recognize the symptoms of an opiate overdose;

25 (C) How and when to contact appropriate emergency medical

1 services; and

2 (D) How to administer an opioid antagonist.

3 (4) "Opioid antagonist" means a federal Food and Drug  
4 Administration approved drug that, when administered, negates or  
5 neutralizes in whole or in part the pharmacological effects of an  
6 opioid in the body. The opioid antagonist is limited to Naloxone  
7 or other medications approved for this purpose.

8 **§16-5X-3. Purpose and objectives.**

9 (a) The purpose of this article is to prevent deaths in  
10 circumstances involving patients who have accidentally overdosed on  
11 prescribed opioid medications.

12 (b) By offering the drug Naloxone to patients who are  
13 prescribed opiates, the medication can be made available to  
14 patients, their families, or caregivers who are often  
15 circumstantially best equipped to serve as first responders, in the  
16 event of an accidental overdose.

17 (c) Prescribers may offer a prescription for Naloxone, a drug  
18 that reverses the effects of opiate overdose, to patients who are  
19 prescribed opiates for chronic pain or as part of a methadone or  
20 suboxone treatment program.

21 (d) Prescribers are required to make available or provide  
22 patients, their families, or caregivers with the necessary  
23 education and information regarding the proper use of Naloxone.

24 **§16-5X-4. Prescriber responsibility.**

25 (a) All prescribers in the course of their professional

1 practice may offer to patients, to whom they also prescribe opiates  
2 for chronic pain or, patients engaged in methadone or suboxone  
3 treatment programs, a prescription for the drug Naloxone.

4 (b) All prescribers who may offer the prescription drug  
5 Naloxone to their patients under this section shall make  
6 information and education available to patients, their family  
7 members, or caregivers on the beneficial and proper use of  
8 Naloxone.

9 (c) When a prescription is written to the patient for  
10 Naloxone, or the patient enters a methadone or suboxone addiction  
11 treatment program, the education component of this subsection,  
12 offered to the patient, his or her family or caregiver, is required  
13 as a condition of obtaining the prescription or entering the  
14 addiction treatment program.

This article is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.