



1 This article is known as and may be cited as the "Offer of  
2 Emergency Aid Medication to Patients Prescribed Opiates".

3 **§16-5X-2. Definitions.**

4 As used in this article:

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

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

17 (3) "Naloxone" means naloxone hydrochloride, an opioid  
18 antagonist approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for  
19 the treatment of an opiate or opioid drug overdose by intranasal  
20 administration.

21 (4) "Necessary education and information" means the education  
22 and training necessary to enable individuals to prevent, recognize  
23 and respond to opiate overdose, and that provides at a minimum  
24 training in:

1 (A) The cause of opiate overdose;

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

3 (C) How and when to contact appropriate emergency medical  
4 services; and

5 (D) How to administer an opioid antagonist.

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

11 **§16-5X-3. Purpose and objectives.**

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

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

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

24 (d) Prescribers shall make available or provide to patients,

1 their families, or caregivers, the necessary education and  
2 information regarding the proper use of Naloxone.

3 **§16-5X-4. Prescriber responsibility.**

4 (a) All prescribers in the course of their professional  
5 practice may offer to patients, to whom they also prescribe opiates  
6 for chronic pain or, patients engaged in methadone or suboxone  
7 treatment programs, a prescription for the drug Naloxone.

8 (b) All prescribers who may offer the prescription drug  
9 Naloxone to their patients under this section shall make  
10 information and educational material on the beneficial and proper  
11 use of Naloxone available to patients, their family members, or  
12 caregivers.

13 (c) When a prescription is written to a patient for Naloxone,  
14 or a patient enters a methadone or suboxone addiction treatment  
15 program, the educational component found in subsection-b of this  
16 section is required to be given to the patient, his or her family  
17 or caregiver as a condition of obtaining the prescription or  
18 entering the addiction treatment program.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure the emergency aid medication Naloxone is made available to patients prescribed opiates, establish responsibilities for licensed prescribers of opiates to follow, and provide for education of patients, their family members or caregivers.

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