

PACE/CRDP/SPBP

PROVIDER BULLETIN

February 20, 2018

HEROIN AND OPIOID EPIDEMIC

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY January 10, 2018

On January 10, 2018 Governor Wolf declared a disaster emergency after reviewing opioid crisis information including the following:

- The total number of fatal drug overdoses in Pennsylvania increased by 37% from 2015 reaching 4,642 in 2016.
- Pennsylvania's rate of drug overdose is 36.5 per 100,000 compared to the national average of 16.3 per 100,000.
- The number of emergency department visits related to an opioid overdose increased by 82% from the third quarter of 2016 to the third quarter of 2017;
- First responders have used naloxone to save more than 5,000 lives.
- The 1-800-662-HELP has received more than 18,000 calls.

Accompanying this bulletin is a FACT SHEET prepared by the Commonwealth summarizing both what has been accomplished thus far as well as listing the thirteen (13) new key initiatives contained in the Governor's Proclamation.

FACT SHEET



GOVERNOR WOLF'S DISASTER DECLARATION FOR THE HEROIN AND OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Governor Wolf is taking a substantial additional step to declare the heroin and opioid epidemic as a statewide disaster emergency.

Governor Wolf's administration has drastically expanded state government's response to the heroin and opioid epidemic. Since Governor Wolf took office, he and his administration have taken aggressive steps to combat the crisis and disease, making Pennsylvania a national leader in this fight.

This disaster declaration will bolster the administration's existing response by speeding up and expanding access to treatment, improving tools for families, first responders and others to save lives, and further enhancing coordination and data collection to improve state and local response.

WHAT PENNSYLVANIA HAS DONE

- Redesigned the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to reduce doctor-shopping and combat pill mills.
- Expanded and worked to protect Medicaid - helping over 125,000 people get treatment.
- Established 45 centers of excellence treatment programs that will allow nearly 11,000 Pennsylvanians to receive care.
- Expanded the drug-take back program to 700 boxes, destroying 300,000 pounds of drugs.
- Made naloxone available to all Pennsylvanians.
- Created ten sets of prescribing guidelines to assist health care professionals.
- Worked with Pennsylvania's medical schools to create new curricula on opioids.
- Started a hotline help line to connect individuals seeking treatment.
- Limited the number of opioids that can be prescribed to a minor or ER patient.
- Expanded access to naloxone by providing funds to first responders and law enforcement, saving more than 5,000 lives.
- Provided \$2 million to expand specialty drug courts.

WHAT THE DISASTER DECLARATION DOES NOW

ENHANCING COORDINATION AND DATA COLLECTION TO BOLSTER STATE AND LOCAL RESPONSE

- Create an Opioid Operational Command Center at Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.
- Expand Access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to Other Commonwealth Entities for Clinical Decision-Making Purposes.
- Add Overdoses and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome as Reportable Conditions.
- Authorize Emergency Purchase Under Procurement Code for Hotline Contract with Current Vendor.

IMPROVING TOOLS FOR FAMILIES, FIRST RESPONDERS AND OTHERS TO SAVE LIVES

- Enable Naloxone Leave Behind by Emergency Medical Services.
- Allow Pharmacists to Partner with Other Organizations to Increase Access to Naloxone.
- Reschedule of Fentanyl Derivatives to Align with Federal Drug Enforcement Agency Schedule.
- Streamline a Pilot Program Using an Advanced Body Scanner.

SPEEDING UP AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO TREATMENT

- Waive the Face-to-Face Physician Requirement for Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) Admissions.
- Allow Expansion of Medication Units for Narcotic Treatment Programs.
- Waive Annual Licensing Requirements for High Performing Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facilities.
- Waive Fees for Birth Certificates for Individuals with Substance Use Disorder.
- Waive Separate Licensing Requirement for Hospitals to Expand Access to Drug and Alcohol Treatment.