



ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alexis Geier Horan, ageier@asam.org, 202-276-7873

ASAM Revises Public Policy Statement on the Use of Naloxone for the Prevention of Drug Overdose Deaths

CHEVY CHASE, MD, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 – The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) has updated its [Public Policy Statement on the Use of Naloxone for the Prevention of Drug Overdose Deaths](#). Specifically, the revision recommends the employment of “co-prescription” programs in which prescriptions for naloxone could be prescribed simultaneously with prescriptions for high-potency opioids and that all addiction treatment agencies have on-site supplies of naloxone for “rescue” dosing. The revision also recommends that all jurisdictions adopt laws that would offer naloxone providers and users immunity from prosecution and/or civil liability.

“Expanding access to naloxone should be part of any strategy attempting to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid addiction” offers Dr. Stuart Gitlow, ASAM President. “The use of naloxone to reverse opioid overdose not only saves lives but also provides an opportunity to engage the addicted individual in treatment.”

The revised policy statement maintains its recommendations that naloxone recipients also receive education in the prevention, detection and appropriate response to drug overdose and that research into the identification of new opioid antagonists and/or delivery systems continue.

The Public Needs to Know

Opioid addiction is a chronic disease and is treatable with stabilizing medications, psychosocial interventions and recovery support programs. Even so, millions of Americans currently in need of treatment are unable to access it. ASAM is an association of physicians and associated professionals dedicated to improving the treatment of alcohol, drug and other addictions, educating physicians and medical students, promoting research and prevention, and enlightening and informing the medical community and the public about these issues.

For more information regarding addiction treatment and to access ASAM's public policy statements, please visit www.asam.org.