

Governor Corbett signs Act 139

Allowing first responders to administer naloxone to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose

Governor Corbett recently signed legislation, Act 139 of 2014, allowing first responders (law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS) to administer naloxone to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. Additionally, individuals, such as friends or family members in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid related overdose, may also receive a prescription for naloxone. The law also provides immunity from prosecution for those responding to and reporting overdoses. A copy of Act 139 can be found at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2013&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=1164&pn=2328>

Consequently, pharmacies in Pennsylvania may be requested to fill standing orders or prescriptions for first responder agencies or friends/family members under the direction of a health care provider authorized to prescribe naloxone.

The most common routes of administration have been by intra-nasal application or by auto-injector (Evizio™, Kaleo Pharmaceuticals). As you're aware, while the Evizio™ Auto-Injector is delivered as a complete, ready for use unit, intra-nasal applications require two separate purchases, the Luer-Lock Prefilled Syringe (2 mg / 2 mL of naloxone) and the nasal atomization device.

In anticipation for the Act 139 enactment date of November 29, 2014, the Departments of Drug and Alcohol Programs and Health urge all Pennsylvania pharmacies to ensure that these particular delivery methods of naloxone as well as their essential attachments are stocked and available for customers seeking to obtain a supply. Thank you so much for your understanding and assistance in ensuring access to this life-saving prescription drug.