



April 24, 2014

NWC EMSS Position Statement: **Naloxone use by law enforcement**

It has come to our attention that various law enforcement agencies in our communities are exploring the option of allowing their personnel to carry and administer naloxone to persons suspected of an opiate overdose. Du Page County is in the process of implementing this and other counties may follow.

As an EMS system, we do not have the authority under the Illinois EMS Act to train law enforcement personnel or supply medications to non-EMS system members. While rapid administration of naloxone to someone with an opiate overdose may be life-saving, there needs to be adequate initial and on-going education and oversight of such a program, as well as procurement and distribution of the drug and administration supplies.

Our EMS agencies and system hospitals cannot replenish naloxone, syringes, or other medical supplies to law enforcement agencies that may be part of a naloxone program.

If any law enforcement agencies approach our System members regarding these issues, please feel free to share this information with them. If any of the local police departments in any of our system municipalities decide to participate in a naloxone administration program, please make sure your EMS staff is aware of this and let us know in the EMS office at Northwest Community so we can incorporate any pre-EMS use of naloxone into our Q.I. activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at jortinau@nch.org or Connie Mattera at cmattera@nch.org.

John M. Ortinau, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director
Northwest Community EMS System