



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

To: Colorado EMS Medical Directors, EMS Education Programs, Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council members, Regional Medical Directors and other interested parties

From: D. Randy Kuykendall, MLS; Division Director, 
Health Facilities & Emergency Medical Services Division

Date: March 18, 2016

Re: 6 CCR 1015-3, EMS Chapter Two - Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, Table A.5 - Medication Administration Routes

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Department) is aware that general discussions are taking place at EMS service agencies and at regional meetings regarding the need for waiver requests that would allow an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to administer naloxone (Narcan) to patients via intranasal (IN) route. Under the current scope of practice regulations, EMTs are authorized to administer naloxone via IV or intramuscular routes but the current rule does not authorize IN induction for this level of practice (reference 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Two, Appendix B, Tables A.5 and B.2).

In 2015, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 15-053 which allows for the Department, via the chief medical officer, to issue standing orders to be dispensed by pharmacies and includes instructions to civilians on the medication administration route of intranasal naloxone. Dr. Larry Wolk, CDPHE Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, has issued these standing orders.

In light of these circumstances, and in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare, the Department has determined, and by this memo provides notice, that the intranasal administration of naloxone is henceforth an allowable act for an EMT while the Department is moving forward to update the Chapter Two rules. EMS agencies authorizing the administration of naloxone via IN will need to ensure proper training and establish protocols accordingly. Agencies may move forward without requesting a waiver or other notification to the Department.

The Chapter Two rules are scheduled for revision in 2016. The Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC) will be reviewing the rules at each of its quarterly meetings this year. These meetings are open to the public and your input is welcome. If you have any questions or need for further information, please feel free to contact the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch at 303-692-2989. Thank you for your service to the State of Colorado.

