



**Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians**

Date: March 20, 2023

To: Sen. Deb Patterson, Chair
Sen. Cedric Hayden, Vice Chair
Senate Health Care Committee

From: Alex Skog, MD, FACEP, President
Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians

Subject: SB 1043 Opioid Poisoning Reversal Medication at Discharge

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and members of the committee, please accept this statement for the record on behalf of OR-ACEP, the Oregon Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. OR-ACEP is a medical society that has represented physicians specializing in emergency medicine since 1971 and its members share a commitment to improve emergency healthcare for all Oregonians.

Preventing opioid misuse and harm is a top priority for emergency physicians. The chapter supports increasing access to naloxone and other anti-antagonist medication and putting it in the hands of patients leaving the ED -- rather than a prescription they might not fill.

We appreciate the intent of SB 1043 and would like to suggest the removal of the language "has a prescription for an opioid." As written, the bill focuses on the wrong population and is misapplied. The people who need naloxone are the ones using predominantly illicitly manufactured opioids who frequently don't have the finances or ability to fill a naloxone prescription. We need to put naloxone in the hands of those patients, not be required to give every patient discharged with a prescription.

From the vantage point of treating Oregonian's every day in the emergency department, the past few years have demonstrated a complete transformation of the opioid epidemic. No longer are people overdosing on opioids prescribed by medical providers but they are all too frequently unknowingly taking pills that they think are prescription medications and being poisoned by laboratory derived synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and an ever-growing list of even more powerful opioid derivatives. From the straight-A teenager I took care of who thought the Xanax he took at a party would be the same pill as his family member was prescribed to the father taking what he thought was oxycodone from a friend for a back injury, I see Oregonians regularly poisoned by supercharged synthetic opioids thought to be prescription medication.

Chapter President- Alex Skog MD FACEP

Chapter Executive- Sierra Acker

President-Elect- Craig Rudy, MD FACEP

Government Relations Director- Katy King

www.oregonacep.org



Oregon Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians

Funding the opioid poisoning reversal kits is critical in order for me to put naloxone kits directly in the hands of my patients. A single naloxone kit costs \$127 at the pharmacy down the street from my emergency department. Naloxone prescriptions are worthless for my uninsured patients at this price. We urge the Legislature to take steps to ensure adequate and ongoing funding in order to distribute this life-saving medication.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chapter President- Alex Skog MD FACEP

Chapter Executive- Sierra Acker

President-Elect- Craig Rudy, MD FACEP

Government Relations Director- Katy King

www.oregonacep.org