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***Health Notification***  
**Expanded Naloxone Access in Pennsylvania**  
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Drug overdose is a significant health problem in Philadelphia. In 2013 the Medical Examiner's Office reported 467 intoxication deaths, with heroin being the most commonly detected drug. On November 29<sup>th</sup> 2014, Pennsylvania **ACT 139** greatly expanded access to naloxone, (also known by the brand names "Narcan" and "Evizo"), a safe and effective medication designed to reverse opiate induced overdose and prevent death. ACT 139 allows first responders (law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS) to administer the drug 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 receive a prescription for naloxone. ACT 139 provides legal protections for people who intervene in the case of an overdose.

Physicians should consider discussing overdose prevention and prescribing naloxone to any of the following individuals:

- Patients being prescribed prescription opioids for chronic conditions
- Patients reporting current or past heroin or prescription opioid misuse
- Individuals who report being a family member or friend of someone who uses heroin or prescription opioids

Physicians should be prepared to discuss the following as part of naloxone prescribing:

- Opioid overdose prevention and recognition
- Importance of calling 911 - the effects of naloxone are only temporary, therefore, it is essential that individuals receive additional medical assistance
- Caring for an overdose victim

Individuals who might be required to administer naloxone to a friend or family member should receive training on how to administer the medication. Trainings are available at [www.getnaloxonenow.org](http://www.getnaloxonenow.org).

For more information on ACT 139, visit  
<http://www.ddap.pa.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1938383&mode=2>