

From the State EMS Medical Director

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<https://www.tn.gov/health/article/ems-md>

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<http://www.emergencymedicalresources.com>

Updated Protocols and information
always available at:

<https://www.tn.gov/health/article/ems-md-protocols>

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<http://www.emergencymedicalresources.com>

Important Information from the Clinical Issues Committee of the State EMS Board

Introduction

There has been a lot of activity related to opioids around our state. This newsletter focuses on ideas, recommendations, and suggestions regarding protections and management of opioid patients and EMS personnel. Please feel free to submit questions, issues, or articles for future newsletters.

The Impact of Opioid Abuse

The opioid crisis has impacted all EMS providers, and remains a significant issue.

A recent report from the forensic folks noted that that most opiate deaths in parts of Tennessee are prescription medications, and that 98% of these patients did not get Narcan as part of their resuscitation. Clearly, we need to consider opioids in cases of unexplained or unexpected arrest, and keep our index of suspicion high.

In addition, the Clinical Issues Committee has recommended that EMTs be permitted to administer Narcan from multidose vials via injection or intranasal routes. This expands the use from set dose delivery systems such as autoinjectors, etc.

Recent news coverage included a statement from Coroners in Ohio related to penetration of latex gloves by synthetic opioids, and recommended the use of nitrile gloves. Here's the story..

<http://fox17.com/news/hooked-on-heroin/coroners-office-to-first-responders-throw-away-your-latex-gloves>.

More guidance from the CDC

Note risk to public health workers and first responders and respirator recommendations. Nitrile gloves, though penetration rate of fentanyl is not known. Press conference on June 15 should provide additional guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/fentanyl/risk.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/opioids/fentanyl.html>

Our next CIC meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2017 at the State EMS Offices. Hope to see you there.

Questions, Comments, Concerns can all be asked and addressed on the website:

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or

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