

Dear Healthcare Providers and Hospital Leaders:

Recognizing the vital role that Emergency Departments play in combatting the overdose epidemic in Pennsylvania, the Department of Health's Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention piloted the [Pennsylvania Substance Use Navigation Program](#) (PA-SUN) from May 2022-August 31, 2023. The PA-SUN pilot aimed to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 1) increasing the number of Emergency Departments (ED) that are prepared to initiate buprenorphine, prescribe or dispense naloxone, facilitate linkage to treatment, and 2) reducing barriers and supporting clinical quality improvement.

During this pilot, information was collected from EDs regarding barriers and challenges they experience related to naloxone distribution. To address concerns and barriers raised, the Department gathered feedback from EDs in Pennsylvania who have successfully implemented naloxone distribution and education practices. Please learn more about how EDs in Pennsylvania are distributing naloxone [HERE](#). This resource may help your Emergency Department create or enhance existing workflows to distribute naloxone to your patients. Additionally, the PA-SUN website includes a [repository of information and resources](#) geared towards Emergency Departments.

The PA-SUN team also created and released a series of five asynchronous (self-study) educational modules intended to support EDs in increasing knowledge on topics such as naloxone, harm reduction, buprenorphine initiation, linkage to care, and stigma. **These trainings offer no-cost continuing education credits and are currently available through September 30, 2024.**

Course Information

Register at: upenn.cloud-cme.com/pa-sunsoudlearningmodules

Course Overview

1. Driving the Cultural Shift: Reducing Stigma in the ED
2. Harm Reduction in the Hospital: Developing a Naloxone Program for at Risk Patients
3. Buprenorphine Induction in the ED
4. Unobserved Initiation of Buprenorphine
5. Warm Handoff in the Emergency Department

Continuing Education Credits

AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ (3.00 hours), Non-Physician Attendance / Participation (3.00 hours), NCPD Hours (ANCC) (3.00 hours), Patient Safety/Risk Management PSRM (3.00 hours), ACPE (3.00 hours), Opioid Education (3.00 hours)

The Department remains committed to offering no-cost education and resources to healthcare providers on safe and effective care of patients who are at risk for overdose or opioid use disorder.

Sincerely,

The Pennsylvania Substance Use Navigation Program
Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention