



A f t e r T h e N a l o x o n e ...

Five Minutes To Help Program for First Responders

Problem:

Like many states around the country, New Jersey continues to experience a growing opioid epidemic. Among many professionals battling this epidemic on the frontline are New Jersey's 32,000 EMS providers. Compounding the problem with illicit opioid use is the high incidence of fentanyl-related overdoses within the state. The opioid epidemic is so severe that it has already claimed 1,387⁽¹⁾ lives in New Jersey in the first half of 2019, placing us on track to exceed previous annual state opioid overdose death statistics.

Currently, there is no law that requires patients to be transported to a definitive care facility (Hospital) after the administration of Naloxone if the patient is alert and oriented to person, place and time. EMS providers are not trained or equipped to offer substance abuse resources to patients, and most are not made aware of what resources available. This means that patients that have suffered a near fatal overdose and refuse further treatment and transport are not given or offered recovery resources. Many of these patients are seen by the same EMS providers several times a week (and sometimes in the same day), treated for the suspected overdose, then repeatedly refuse transport to a hospital.

Goal:

Educate providers on proper communication with patients following treatment from a suspect opioid overdose. Provide patients with recovery resources that are available locally, regionally, and statewide. Reduce the number of repeat overdose patients.

The course provides responders the ability to:

- ***Understand Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and the techniques for effective communication***
- ***Recognize the emergency overdose and appropriate treatment***
- ***In depth discussion/understanding on Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) and how it can help***
- ***Identify and deal with Provider Compassion Fatigue***
- ***Learn how to access and utilize what resources are available on a local, regional, and state level.***

***For Information on the Five Minutes To Help Program,
Contact the NJ Office of EMS at (609) 633-7777***