



Did You Know?

August 2016

Did you know that the Senate passed a package of bills last month to help combat the heroin and opioid epidemic in communities throughout New York State?

The NYS Senate passed these bills in response to several issues that were raised by the Senate's Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. These bills were passed to help assist in furthering prevention of abuse as well as aiding in treatment and recovery efforts for those suffering from an opioid addiction.

Three bills were passed in the package. Some highlights of the bills are as follows:

- Prescribers of opioid medications must complete an educational course every three years to increase and continue awareness of the risks of prescribed opioid medications.
- New educational materials will be created for distribution by pharmacists to consumers about opioid addiction, treatment resources, and proper disposal of unused medicals.
- Physicians can now prescribe pain medicine for just seven days, instead of the usual 30-day supply, for acute pain issues. This addresses the issues of overprescribing.
- The Department of Health must now track the number of opioid overdoses, instead of just the number of opioid deaths.
- Those in need of treatment can now access immediate treatment for a minimum of 14 days, without requiring prior approval from their insurance company.
- Families can now request that a person can be held to receive emergency substance abuse treatment for 72 hours, rather than the previous 48 hours.
- Wrap around services for those who have successfully completed a treatment program have been expanded. These services can now be received for up to nine months after completion of treatment. These case management services include: education, legal, financial, social, childcare, and other support.
- Insurance companies are now required to provide an emergency five-day supply of medications treating substance abuse disorders without a prior authorization.
- Access to the opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, has been expanded to be available to any person who is prescribed it, including family members of those addicted.

What you can do:

- **Know your rights:** You can find a complete outline of the bills passed here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/senate-passes-package-bills-fight-heroin-and-opioid-abuse-communities>
- **Know what services are available:** Crisis Services launched its addiction hotline on August 1st. It is available to anyone struggling with a heroin or opioid addiction. Its purpose is to provide support and treatment information to anyone who is addicted, or to their family members.
The hotline's number is 716-831-7007.

Sources: www.nysenate.gov

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The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America's #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • www.eccpasa.org