OEMS COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT 19-03

Date: March 18, 2019
To: All Connecticut certified & licensed EMS organizations
From: Raffaella Coler RN, MEd., Paramedic
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services
Re: CT EMS Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD)

The purpose of this communication is to inform all CT certified and licensed EMS organizations and providers of the roll-out of the CT EMS Statewide Opioid Reporting Directive (SWORD) with the CT Poison Control Center (CPCC).

Pursuant to Public Act No. 18-166 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCY AND OPIOID OVERDOSES IN THE STATE. Sec. 5. (a) On and after January 1, 2019, any hospital licensed pursuant to chapter 368v of the general statutes or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 20-206jj of the general statutes, that treats a patient for an overdose of an opioid drug, as defined in section 20-14o of the general statutes, shall report such overdose to the Department of Public Health in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

All EMS organizations will be reporting to the CPCC after any call where the patient is suspected of opioid use causing decreased responsiveness, respiratory depression or death, whether or not naloxone was administered.

Following is the roll-out schedule of reporting:
1. April 1, 2019 – Region 3
2. June 1, 2019 – Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5

Prior to roll-out, EMS providers are encouraged to register on the CT Train website to access a companion educational component which can be found here: CT Train #1083473. Additionally, pocket reference cards will be made available in hospital EMS rooms and to all services which will contain the relevant details about the reporting process.

If you have any questions after reviewing the attachment or the CT Train course, contact stacey.durante@ct.gov
Public Act 18-166 requires that EMS personnel report all cases of opioid overdose.

What must EMS report?
Report any suspected opioid overdose case. This may include patients who do not receive naloxone or patients who refuse transportation.

Who must call?
The highest level EMS provider on the scene is responsible for calling if no transport is initiated. If the patient is transported, the highest level EMS provider on the transport unit (can be an intercept paramedic) is responsible for the call to the Connecticut Poison Control Center (CPCC) at 1-800-222-1222. Make the call as soon as possible after patient care. This information will be used in real-time to predict surges in overdose cases.

Example:
- First responder administers naloxone to patient.
- Transport is made to hospital - the highest level provider on the transport unit (may be intercepting paramedic) is responsible for calling CPCC as soon as possible after patient care. Only one call to CPCC per patient.

Out-of-State Cell Phones:
If you are calling via cell phone, the call will go to the poison control center associated with your phone’s area code. Please ask to be transferred to the CONNECTICUT Poison Control Center. If calling from a land line your call will go directly to CPCC.

Is this HIPAA compliant?
Yes! The CT Poison Control Center is considered an exempt entity. They will remove any identifying information prior to adding data to heat maps and reports to be shared with the community.

For a free 0.5-hour CME on opioid overdose and reporting, visit train.org – class # 1083473

*Above is a copy of pocket card which will be available in hospital EMS rooms as well as distributed to each service*