



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**  
*A Healthcare Service Agency*

**NED LAMONT**  
GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

**Legislative Update #22**

**July 16, 2019**

Effective 10/1/2019 [Public Act 19-191 An Act Concerning Opioid Use](#) makes changes in CT General Statutes that address the opioid crisis. As the behavioral health community will be impacted by this bill I am providing a summary. The Act:

- Requires pharmacists to offer consultations to all patients when dispensing a prescription.
- Allows pharmacists to designate a trained pharmacy technician to access the state's Connecticut Prescription Monitoring and Reporting System (CPMRS) on their behalf.
- Requires drug manufacturers and wholesalers to report to the Department of Consumer Protection on decisions to terminate or refuse an order from a pharmacy or prescribing practitioner for schedule II to V controlled substances.
- Prohibits life insurance and annuity policies or contracts from excluding coverage solely based on an individual having received a prescription for naloxone (an opioid antagonist).
- Requires prescribing practitioners who prescribe an opioid drug with more than a 12-week supply to establish a treatment agreement with the patient or discuss a care plan for chronic opioid drug use.
- Requires DMHAS to review and report on literature about the efficacy of providing home-based treatment and recovery services for opioid use disorder to certain Medicaid beneficiaries.
- Requires DMHAS-operated or –approved treatment programs to educate patients with opioid use disorder, and their relatives and significant others, on opioid antagonists and how to administer them.
- Require emergency medical services personnel to complete (a) mental health first aid training and (b) national training and examination requirements.
- Requires hospitals, starting January 1, 2020, to administer a mental health screening or assessment on patients treated for a nonfatal opioid drug overdoses if it is medically appropriate to do so.
- Requires DMHAS to study and report on the protocol for police detention of someone suspected of overdosing on an opioid drug and the implications of involuntarily transporting such a person to an emergency department

Additionally, the Act also requires higher education institutions, by January 1, 2020, to develop and implement a policy on the availability and use of opioid antagonists by students and employees, and generally notify emergency medical providers when an opioid antagonist is used.

You can find information on the Public Act by clicking on the hyperlink provided above or by visiting [cga.ct.gov](http://cga.ct.gov). Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about any of the information contained in the legislative updates. I can be reached at (860) 418-6839, (860) 985-2120 or via email at [mary.mason@ct.gov](mailto:mary.mason@ct.gov).

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