TO: All Ambulance Services in Suffolk County

FROM: Robert Delagi, MA, NREMT-P
Chief, Prehospital Medical Operations and Acting Director

DATE: March 22, 2012

RE: Pilot Program for EMT-B Administration of Intranasal Narcan

The EMS Division is pleased to announce that we have been approved for participation in a multi-county NY State DOH-approved Pilot Demonstration Project. Suffolk County will join together with the Albany area’s Regional Emergency Medical Organization (REMO) and the Rochester area’s Monroe-Livingston Region in a program where NY State certified EMT-Basics, with appropriate education & training, can administer intranasal narcan, to patients with opiate overdose.

Currently, narcan is a medication that may only be administered intravenously or intramuscularly by EMT-CCs or EMT-Ps. The purpose of this program is to place this lifesaving medication in the hands of as many EMS providers as is possible. This program seeks to change the scope of practice in NY State to allow EMT-Bs to carry and administer narcan by intranasal administration.

As you are aware, the abuse of heroin and prescription opiates is escalating, and opiate-induced respiratory depression can lead to hypoxic brain injury or death. The use of intranasal narcan by BLS providers has been proven to be safe and effective in other parts of the country and the risk : benefit ratio favors this type of application.

If your department is interested in participating, we ask that you forward patient care reports (PCRs) from the last twelve (12) months for all cases where your department responded to patients with opioid overdose and no ALS was present on the scene, or ALS intercept had to be called to the scene, so that we may maximize distribution of this medication across agencies and BLS providers with the most likelihood to use it. PCRs can be sent Attention—BLS Narcan Project by fax to 853-8307, or by U.S. Mail, or hand delivery to the EMS Office. In order to meet planning deadlines established by the project coordinator, PCRs should be sent as soon as possible but no later than April 22, 2012.

We will address education & training requirements and program objectives with participating agencies in the near future.

Thank you for your cooperation and please don’t hesitate to call the EMS office if you have any questions or require any additional information.