



5190 Neil Road, Ste. 400
Reno, NV 89502
775-827-0184 • 775-827-0190
nvha.net

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Contact: Amy Shogren, Director of Communications and Administration
Nevada Hospital Association
775-827-0184
amy@nvha.net

NEVADA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM AND USE AND PRESCRIBING OF OPIOIDS

February 24, 2016 – The [Nevada Hospital Association \(NHA\)](#) recently endorsed the recommended [guidelines](#) for all NHA members to address the misuse of controlled substance prescriptions.

The NHA worked with the [Nevada State Board of Pharmacy](#) to provide hospitals with a summary of [Senate Bill 459](#) which addresses two primary topics:

- The Nevada Prescription Monitoring Program, a tracking system that determines if a patient is receiving controlled substance prescriptions from more than one provider.
- The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act which authorizes the possession, storage, administration and dispensing of opioid antagonists.

The guidelines establish best practices for prescribers and pharmacists for screening and prescribing controlled substances and opioid antagonists in a hospital emergency department or practitioners discharging an in-patient to home. The guidelines also recognize that each patient's medical condition is unique and they are not meant to interfere with or replace the professional judgement of a treating clinician.

"Nevada hospitals play a critical role in helping to find and implement solutions to prescription substance abuse," Bill Welch, President and CEO of the NHA, said. "These guidelines aim to reduce the injuries and deaths that arise from misuse and addiction."

Overdose is a major public health problem and is now the leading cause of accidental death in the nation. According to a 2013 report, Nevada has the fourth-highest drug overdose mortality rate in the United States, with 20.7 per 100,000 people suffering drug overdose fatalities. This is an 80 percent increase in overdose deaths since 1999, when the rate was 11.5 per 100,000.

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About the Nevada Hospital Association

The Nevada Hospital Association is a not-for-profit, statewide trade association representing Nevada's acute care hospitals along with psychiatric, rehabilitation and other specialty hospitals as well as health-related agencies and organizations throughout the state. Allied with the American Hospital Association, the NHA is an independent organization headquartered in Reno, Nevada. Formally established in 1960 and incorporated in 1971, the NHA was created by hospital administrators to provide a unified forum for all types of hospitals to address issues including reimbursement, worker's compensation, professional liability and continuing education, among others.