

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 15-0059.01 Christy Chase x2008

**SENATE BILL 15-053**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Aguilar,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**McCann and Lontine,**

---

**Senate Committees**  
Health & Human Services

**House Committees**  
Health, Insurance, & Environment

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING THE ABILITY TO FURNISH A SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY**  
102 **DRUGS FOR PURPOSES OF TREATING INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY**  
103 **EXPERIENCE AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Under current law, physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice nurses with prescriptive authority (collectively referred to as licensed prescribers), as well as pharmacists (licensed dispensers), are not subject to civil or criminal liability or professional discipline when they prescribe or dispense an opiate antagonist in a good-faith effort to assist

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
March 6, 2015

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
January 27, 2015

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
January 26, 2015

an individual experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event or to assist a friend, family member, or other person who is able to provide assistance to an individual who may experience an opiate-related drug overdose event.

The bill allows licensed prescribers to prescribe, and licensed dispensers to dispense, an opiate antagonist, either pursuant to a direct prescription order or in accordance with standing orders and protocols, to:

- ! An individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event;
- ! A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist an at-risk individual;
- ! An employee or volunteer of a harm reduction organization; or
- ! A first responder.

Licensed prescribers and dispensers acting in good faith in prescribing or dispensing opiate antagonists as permitted under the bill are immune from professional discipline and civil and criminal liability. Additionally, first responders and harm reduction employees and volunteers are not subject to criminal or civil liability when acting in good faith to furnish or administer an opiate antagonist to an at-risk individual or a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist an at-risk individual.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-36-117.7 as  
3 follows:

4 **12-36-117.7. Prescribing opiate antagonists - definitions.** (1) A  
5 PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSED PURSUANT TO THIS  
6 ARTICLE MAY PRESCRIBE OR DISPENSE, DIRECTLY OR IN ACCORDANCE  
7 WITH STANDING ORDERS AND PROTOCOLS, AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST TO:

8 (a) AN INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED  
9 DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

10 (b) A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON IN A POSITION  
11 TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED  
12 DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

13 (c) AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A HARM REDUCTION

1 ORGANIZATION; OR

2 (d) A FIRST RESPONDER.

3 (2) A LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WHO  
4 PRESCRIBES OR DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST PURSUANT TO THIS  
5 SECTION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO EDUCATE PERSONS RECEIVING THE  
6 OPIATE ANTAGONIST ON THE USE OF AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST FOR  
7 OVERDOSE, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION CONCERNING RISK FACTORS FOR  
8 OVERDOSE, RECOGNIZING AN OVERDOSE, CALLING EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
9 SERVICES, RESCUE BREATHING, AND ADMINISTERING AN OPIATE  
10 ANTAGONIST.

11 (3) A LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DOES NOT  
12 ENGAGE IN UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-36-117  
13 IF THE PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT ISSUES STANDING ORDERS AND  
14 PROTOCOLS REGARDING OPIATE ANTAGONISTS OR PRESCRIBES OR  
15 DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN A GOOD-FAITH EFFORT TO ASSIST:

16 (a) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN  
17 OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

18 (b) A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON WHO IS IN A  
19 POSITION TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN  
20 OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT; OR

21 (c) A FIRST RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A  
22 HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION IN RESPONDING TO, TREATING, OR  
23 OTHERWISE ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS EXPERIENCING OR IS AT  
24 RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT OR  
25 A FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR OTHER PERSON IN A POSITION TO ASSIST AN  
26 AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

27 (4) A LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WHO

1       PRESCRIBES OR DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
2       THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL LIABILITY OR CRIMINAL  
3       PROSECUTION, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTIONS 13-21-108.7 (4) AND 18-1-712  
4       (3), C.R.S., RESPECTIVELY.

5               (5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT ESTABLISH A DUTY OR STANDARD OF  
6       CARE REGARDING THE PRESCRIBING, DISPENSING, OR ADMINISTERING OF  
7       AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST.

8               (6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

9               (a) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS:

10              (I) A PEACE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101, C.R.S.;

11              (II) A FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 29-5-203 (10), C.R.S.;

12       OR

13              (III) A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
14       31-30-1102 (9), C.R.S.

15              (b) "HARMREDUCTION ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION  
16       THAT PROVIDES SERVICES, INCLUDING MEDICAL CARE, COUNSELING,  
17       HOMELESS SERVICES, OR DRUG TREATMENT, TO INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF  
18       EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT OR TO THE  
19       FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF AN AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

20              (c) "OPIATE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION  
21       18-18-102 (21), C.R.S.

22              (d) "OPIATE ANTAGONIST" MEANS NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE OR  
23       ANY SIMILARLY ACTING DRUG THAT IS NOT A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE  
24       AND THAT IS APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG  
25       ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF A DRUG OVERDOSE.

26              (e) "OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT" MEANS AN ACUTE  
27       CONDITION, INCLUDING A DECREASED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS OR

1 RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION, THAT:

2 (I) RESULTS FROM THE CONSUMPTION OR USE OF A CONTROLLED  
3 SUBSTANCE OR ANOTHER SUBSTANCE WITH WHICH A CONTROLLED  
4 SUBSTANCE WAS COMBINED;

5 (II) A LAYPERSON WOULD REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE CAUSED BY  
6 AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT; AND

7 (III) REQUIRES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

8 (f) "PROTOCOL" MEANS A SPECIFIC WRITTEN PLAN FOR A COURSE  
9 OF MEDICAL TREATMENT CONTAINING A WRITTEN SET OF SPECIFIC  
10 DIRECTIONS CREATED BY A PHYSICIAN, GROUP OF PHYSICIANS, HOSPITAL  
11 MEDICAL COMMITTEE, PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE, OR  
12 OTHER SIMILAR PRACTITIONERS OR GROUPS OF PRACTITIONERS WITH  
13 EXPERTISE IN THE USE OF OPIATE ANTAGONISTS.

14 (g) "STANDING ORDER" MEANS A PRESCRIPTION ORDER WRITTEN  
15 BY A PHYSICIAN OR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT THAT IS NOT SPECIFIC TO AND  
16 DOES NOT IDENTIFY A PARTICULAR PATIENT.

17 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-36-117, **repeal**  
18 (1.7) as follows:

19 **12-36-117. Unprofessional conduct.** (1.7) ~~The prescribing,~~  
20 ~~dispensing, or distribution of an opiate antagonist by a licensed health~~  
21 ~~care practitioner shall not constitute unprofessional conduct if he or she~~  
22 ~~prescribed, dispensed, or distributed the opiate antagonist in a good faith~~  
23 ~~effort to assist:~~

24 (a) ~~A person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely to~~  
25 ~~experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~  
26 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S.; or~~

27 (b) ~~A family member, friend, or other person who is in a position~~

1 ~~to assist a person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely to~~  
2 ~~experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~  
3 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S.~~

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 12-38-125.5 as  
5 follows:

6 **12-38-125.5. Prescribing opiate antagonists - definitions.**

7 (1) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY  
8 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-38-111.6 MAY PRESCRIBE OR DISPENSE,  
9 DIRECTLY OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS AND PROTOCOLS,  
10 AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST TO:

11 (a) AN INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED  
12 DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

13 (b) A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON IN A POSITION  
14 TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED  
15 DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

16 (c) AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A HARM REDUCTION  
17 ORGANIZATION; OR

18 (d) A FIRST RESPONDER.

19 (2) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH PRESCRIPTIVE  
20 AUTHORITY WHO PRESCRIBES OR DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST  
21 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO EDUCATE  
22 PERSONS RECEIVING THE OPIATE ANTAGONIST ON THE USE OF AN OPIATE  
23 ANTAGONIST FOR OVERDOSE, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION CONCERNING RISK  
24 FACTORS FOR OVERDOSE, RECOGNIZING AN OVERDOSE, CALLING  
25 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, RESCUE BREATHING, AND  
26 ADMINISTERING AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST.

27 (3) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH PRESCRIPTIVE

1 AUTHORITY DOES NOT ENGAGE IN CONDUCT THAT IS GROUNDS FOR  
2 DISCIPLINE PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-38-117 IF THE ADVANCED PRACTICE  
3 NURSE ISSUES STANDING ORDERS AND PROTOCOLS REGARDING OPIATE  
4 ANTAGONISTS OR PRESCRIBES OR DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN A  
5 GOOD-FAITH EFFORT TO ASSIST:

6 (a) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN  
7 OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

8 (b) A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON WHO IS IN A  
9 POSITION TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN  
10 OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

11 (c) A FIRST RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A  
12 HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION IN RESPONDING TO, TREATING, OR  
13 OTHERWISE ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS EXPERIENCING OR IS AT  
14 RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT OR  
15 A FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR OTHER PERSON IN A POSITION TO ASSIST AN  
16 AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

17 (4) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH PRESCRIPTIVE  
18 AUTHORITY WHO PRESCRIBES OR DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN  
19 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL LIABILITY OR  
20 CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTIONS 13-21-108.7 (4) AND  
21 18-1-712 (3), C.R.S., RESPECTIVELY.

22 (5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT ESTABLISH A DUTY OR STANDARD OF  
23 CARE REGARDING THE PRESCRIBING, DISPENSING, OR ADMINISTERING OF  
24 AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST.

25 (6) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

26 (a) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS:

27 (I) A PEACE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101, C.R.S.;

1 (II) A FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 29-5-203 (10), C.R.S.;

2 OR

3 (III) A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
4 31-30-1102 (9), C.R.S.

5 (b) "HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION  
6 THAT PROVIDES SERVICES, INCLUDING MEDICAL CARE, COUNSELING,  
7 HOMELESS SERVICES, OR DRUG TREATMENT, TO INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF  
8 EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT OR TO THE  
9 FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF AN AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

10 (c) "OPIATE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION  
11 18-18-102 (21), C.R.S.

12 (d) "OPIATE ANTAGONIST" MEANS NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE OR  
13 ANY SIMILARLY ACTING DRUG THAT IS NOT A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE  
14 AND THAT IS APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG  
15 ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF A DRUG OVERDOSE.

16 (e) "OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT" MEANS AN ACUTE  
17 CONDITION, INCLUDING A DECREASED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS OR  
18 RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION, THAT:

19 (I) RESULTS FROM THE CONSUMPTION OR USE OF A CONTROLLED  
20 SUBSTANCE OR ANOTHER SUBSTANCE WITH WHICH A CONTROLLED  
21 SUBSTANCE WAS COMBINED;

22 (II) A LAY PERSON WOULD REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE CAUSED BY  
23 AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT; AND

24 (III) REQUIRES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

25 (f) "PROTOCOL" MEANS A SPECIFIC WRITTEN PLAN FOR A COURSE  
26 OF MEDICAL TREATMENT CONTAINING A WRITTEN SET OF SPECIFIC  
27 DIRECTIONS CREATED BY A PHYSICIAN, GROUP OF PHYSICIANS, HOSPITAL



1 MEDICAL COMMITTEE, PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE, OR  
2 OTHER SIMILAR PRACTITIONERS OR GROUPS OF PRACTITIONERS WITH  
3 EXPERTISE IN THE USE OF OPIATE ANTAGONISTS.

4 (g) "STANDING ORDER" MEANS A PRESCRIPTION ORDER WRITTEN  
5 BY AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY THAT  
6 IS NOT SPECIFIC TO AND DOES NOT IDENTIFY A PARTICULAR PATIENT.

7 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-38-117, **repeal** (6)  
8 as follows:

9 **12-38-117. Grounds for discipline.** (6) ~~The prescribing,~~  
10 ~~dispensing, or distribution of an opiate antagonist by an advanced practice~~  
11 ~~nurse shall not constitute grounds for discipline if he or she prescribed,~~  
12 ~~dispensed, or distributed the opiate antagonist in a good faith effort to~~  
13 ~~assist:~~

14 (a) ~~A person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely to~~  
15 ~~experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~  
16 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S.; or~~

17 (b) ~~A family member, friend, or other person who is in a position~~  
18 ~~to assist a person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely to~~  
19 ~~experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~  
20 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S.~~

21 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-42.5-105, **amend**  
22 (2) as follows:

23 **12-42.5-105. Rules.** (2) On or before January 1, ~~2014~~ 2016, the  
24 board shall adopt or amend rules as necessary to permit the dispensing of  
25 an opiate antagonist as defined in section ~~18-1-712 (5) (d), C.R.S., by a~~  
26 ~~pharmacist to a person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely~~  
27 ~~to experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~

1 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S., or to a family member, friend, or other person~~  
2 ~~who is in a position to assist such a person, so long as the prescription for~~  
3 ~~the opiate antagonist provides for the dispensing of the opiate antagonist~~  
4 ~~to such a family member, friend, or other person~~ IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
5 SECTION 12-42.5-120 (3).

6 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-42.5-120, **amend**  
7 (1); and **add** (3) as follows:

8 **12-42.5-120. Prescription required - exception - dispensing**  
9 **opiate antagonists - definitions.** (1) Except as provided in section  
10 18-18-414, C.R.S., and ~~subsection (2)~~ SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) of this  
11 section, an order is required prior to dispensing any prescription drug.  
12 Orders shall be readily retrievable within the appropriate statute of  
13 limitations.

14 (3) (a) A PHARMACIST MAY DISPENSE, PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OR  
15 STANDING ORDERS AND PROTOCOLS, AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST TO:

16 (I) AN INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED  
17 DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

18 (II) A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON IN A POSITION  
19 TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED  
20 DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

21 (III) AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A HARM REDUCTION  
22 ORGANIZATION; OR

23 (IV) A FIRST RESPONDER.

24 (b) A PHARMACIST WHO DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST  
25 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO  
26 EDUCATE PERSONS RECEIVING THE OPIATE ANTAGONIST ON THE USE OF AN  
27 OPIATE ANTAGONIST FOR OVERDOSE, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION

1 CONCERNING RISK FACTORS FOR OVERDOSE, RECOGNIZING AN OVERDOSE,  
2 CALLING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, RESCUE BREATHING, AND  
3 ADMINISTERING AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST.

4 (c) (I) A PHARMACIST DOES NOT ENGAGE IN UNPROFESSIONAL  
5 CONDUCT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-42.5-123 IF THE PHARMACIST  
6 DISPENSES, PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OR STANDING ORDERS AND  
7 PROTOCOLS, AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN A GOOD-FAITH EFFORT TO ASSIST:

8 (A) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN  
9 OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT;

10 (B) A FAMILY MEMBER, FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON WHO IS IN A  
11 POSITION TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN  
12 OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT; OR

13 (C) A FIRST RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A  
14 HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION IN RESPONDING TO, TREATING, OR  
15 OTHERWISE ASSISTING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS EXPERIENCING OR IS AT  
16 RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT OR  
17 A FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, OR OTHER PERSON IN A POSITION TO ASSIST AN  
18 AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

19 (II) A PHARMACIST WHO DISPENSES AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN  
20 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL LIABILITY OR  
21 CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTIONS 13-21-108.7 (4) AND  
22 18-1-712 (3), C.R.S., RESPECTIVELY.

23 (III) THIS SUBSECTION (3) DOES NOT ESTABLISH A DUTY OR  
24 STANDARD OF CARE REGARDING THE DISPENSING OF AN OPIATE  
25 ANTAGONIST.

26 (d) (I) A FIRST RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A  
27 HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION MAY, PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OR

1 STANDING ORDERS AND PROTOCOLS:

2 (A) POSSESS AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST;

3 (B) FURNISH AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST TO A FAMILY MEMBER,  
4 FRIEND, OR OTHER PERSON WHO IS IN A POSITION TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL  
5 WHO IS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE  
6 EVENT; OR

7 (C) ADMINISTER AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST TO AN INDIVIDUAL  
8 EXPERIENCING, OR WHO A REASONABLE PERSON WOULD BELIEVE IS  
9 EXPERIENCING, AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT.

10 (II) A FIRST RESPONDER OR HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION IS  
11 STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO EDUCATE ITS EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS,  
12 AS WELL AS PERSONS RECEIVING AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST FROM THE FIRST  
13 RESPONDER OR HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION, ON THE USE OF AN  
14 OPIATE ANTAGONIST FOR OVERDOSE, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION  
15 CONCERNING RISK FACTORS FOR OVERDOSE, RECOGNIZING AN OVERDOSE,  
16 CALLING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, RESCUE BREATHING, AND  
17 ADMINISTERING AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST.

18 (III) A FIRST RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A  
19 HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
20 PARAGRAPH (d) IS NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL LIABILITY OR CRIMINAL  
21 PROSECUTION, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTIONS 13-21-108.7 (3) AND 18-1-712  
22 (2), C.R.S., RESPECTIVELY.

23 (e) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

24 (I) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS:

25 (A) A PEACE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 16-2.5-101, C.R.S.;

26 (B) A FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 29-5-203 (10), C.R.S.;

27 OR

1 (C) A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
2 31-30-1102 (9), C.R.S.

3 (II) "HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION  
4 THAT PROVIDES SERVICES, INCLUDING MEDICAL CARE, COUNSELING,  
5 HOMELESS SERVICES, OR DRUG TREATMENT, TO INDIVIDUALS AT RISK OF  
6 EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT OR TO THE  
7 FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF AN AT-RISK INDIVIDUAL.

8 (III) "OPIATE" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN SECTION  
9 18-18-102 (21), C.R.S.

10 (IV) "OPIATE ANTAGONIST" MEANS NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE  
11 OR ANY SIMILARLY ACTING DRUG THAT IS NOT A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE  
12 AND THAT IS APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG  
13 ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF A DRUG OVERDOSE.

14 (V) "OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT" MEANS AN ACUTE  
15 CONDITION, INCLUDING A DECREASED LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS OR  
16 RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION, THAT:

17 (A) RESULTS FROM THE CONSUMPTION OR USE OF A CONTROLLED  
18 SUBSTANCE OR ANOTHER SUBSTANCE WITH WHICH A CONTROLLED  
19 SUBSTANCE WAS COMBINED;

20 (B) A LAY PERSON WOULD REASONABLY BELIEVE TO BE CAUSED BY  
21 AN OPIATE-RELATED DRUG OVERDOSE EVENT; AND

22 (C) REQUIRES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

23 (VI) "PROTOCOL" MEANS A SPECIFIC WRITTEN PLAN FOR A COURSE  
24 OF MEDICAL TREATMENT CONTAINING A WRITTEN SET OF SPECIFIC  
25 DIRECTIONS CREATED BY A PHYSICIAN, GROUP OF PHYSICIANS, HOSPITAL  
26 MEDICAL COMMITTEE, PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE, OR  
27 OTHER SIMILAR PRACTITIONERS OR GROUPS OF PRACTITIONERS WITH

1 EXPERTISE IN THE USE OF OPIATE ANTAGONISTS.

2 (VII) "STANDING ORDER" MEANS A PRESCRIPTION ORDER WRITTEN  
3 BY A PRACTITIONER THAT IS NOT SPECIFIC TO AND DOES NOT IDENTIFY A  
4 PARTICULAR PATIENT.

5 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-42.5-123, **repeal**  
6 (3) as follows:

7 **12-42.5-123. Unprofessional conduct - grounds for discipline.**

8 (3) ~~The dispensing or distribution of an opiate antagonist by a pharmacist~~  
9 ~~shall not constitute unprofessional conduct if he or she dispensed or~~  
10 ~~distributed the opiate antagonist in a good-faith effort to assist:~~

11 (a) ~~A person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely to~~  
12 ~~experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~  
13 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S.; or~~

14 (b) ~~A family member, friend, or other person who is in a position~~  
15 ~~to assist a person who is at increased risk of experiencing or likely to~~  
16 ~~experience an opiate-related drug overdose event, as defined in section~~  
17 ~~18-1-712 (5) (e), C.R.S.~~

18 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 13-21-108.7, **amend**  
19 (2) (b) (I) (A), (2) (e), (3), (4) (a) introductory portion, and (4) (a) (I); and  
20 **repeal** (4) (b) as follows:

21 **13-21-108.7. Persons rendering emergency assistance through**  
22 **the administration of an opiate antagonist - limited immunity -**  
23 **legislative declaration - definitions. (2) Definitions.** As used in this  
24 section, unless the context otherwise requires:

25 (b) (I) "Health care provider" means:

26 (A) A licensed ~~or certified~~ physician, ~~nurse practitioner~~  
27 ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WHO HAS PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY

1 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-38-111.6, C.R.S., physician assistant, or  
2 pharmacist; or

3 (e) "Opiate-related drug overdose event" means an acute  
4 condition, including ~~but not limited to~~ a decreased level of consciousness  
5 or respiratory depression, ~~resulting~~ THAT:

6 (I) RESULTS from the consumption or use of a controlled  
7 substance or another substance with which a controlled substance was  
8 combined; ~~and that~~

9 (II) A layperson would reasonably believe to be an opiate-related  
10 drug overdose event; ~~that~~ AND

11 (III) Requires medical assistance.

12 (3) **General immunity.** A person, other than a health care  
13 provider or a health care facility, who acts in good faith to FURNISH OR  
14 administer an opiate antagonist to ~~another person whom~~ AN INDIVIDUAL  
15 the person believes to be suffering an opiate-related drug overdose event  
16 ~~shall~~ OR TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IN A POSITION TO ASSIST THE  
17 INDIVIDUAL AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED OVERDOSE  
18 EVENT IS not ~~be~~ liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions made  
19 as a result of ~~such~~ THE act. THIS SUBSECTION (3) ALSO APPLIES TO A FIRST  
20 RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A HARM REDUCTION  
21 ORGANIZATION ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-42.5-120 (3)  
22 (d), C.R.S.

23 (4) **Licensed prescribers and dispensers.** (a) ~~A person~~ AN  
24 INDIVIDUAL who is LICENSED BY THE STATE UNDER TITLE 12, C.R.S., AND  
25 IS permitted by SECTION 12-36-117.7, 12-38-125.5, OR 12-42.5-120 (3),  
26 C.R.S., OR BY OTHER APPLICABLE law to prescribe or dispense an opiate  
27 antagonist ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ liable for any civil damages resulting from:

1 (I) ~~Such~~ Prescribing or dispensing AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN  
2 ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE LAW; or

3 (b) ~~A prescriber or dispenser who dispenses an opiate antagonist~~  
4 ~~is strongly encouraged to educate persons receiving the opiate antagonist~~  
5 ~~on the use of an opiate antagonist for overdose, including but not limited~~  
6 ~~to instruction concerning risk factors for overdose, recognition of~~  
7 ~~overdose, calling emergency medical services, rescue breathing, and~~  
8 ~~administration of an opiate antagonist.~~

9 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 18-1-712, **amend** (2),  
10 (3) (a) introductory portion, (3) (a) (I), and (5) (e); and **repeal** (3) (b) as  
11 follows:

12 **18-1-712. Immunity for a person who administers an opiate**  
13 **antagonist during an opiate-related drug overdose event - definitions.**

14 (2) **General immunity.** A person, other than a health care provider or a  
15 health care facility, who acts in good faith to FURNISH OR administer an  
16 opiate antagonist to ~~another person whom~~ AN INDIVIDUAL the person  
17 believes to be suffering an opiate-related drug overdose event ~~shall be~~ OR  
18 TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IN A POSITION TO ASSIST THE INDIVIDUAL AT  
19 RISK OF EXPERIENCING AN OPIATE-RELATED OVERDOSE EVENT IS immune  
20 from criminal prosecution for ~~such~~ THE act. THIS SUBSECTION (2) ALSO  
21 APPLIES TO A FIRST RESPONDER OR AN EMPLOYEE OR VOLUNTEER OF A  
22 HARM REDUCTION ORGANIZATION ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
23 12-42.5-120 (3) (d), C.R.S.

24 (3) (a) **Licensed prescribers and dispensers.** ~~A person~~ AN  
25 INDIVIDUAL who is LICENSED BY THE STATE UNDER TITLE 12, C.R.S., AND  
26 IS permitted by SECTION 12-36-117.7, 12-38-125.5, OR 12-42.5-120 (3),  
27 C.R.S., OR BY OTHER APPLICABLE law to prescribe or dispense an opiate



1 antagonist ~~shall be~~ IS immune from criminal prosecution for:

2 (I) ~~Such~~ Prescribing or dispensing AN OPIATE ANTAGONIST IN  
3 ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE LAW; or

4 (b) ~~A prescriber or dispenser who dispenses an opiate antagonist~~  
5 ~~is strongly encouraged to educate persons receiving the opiate antagonist~~  
6 ~~on the use of an opiate antagonist for overdose, including but not limited~~  
7 ~~to instruction concerning risk factors for overdose, recognition of~~  
8 ~~overdose, calling emergency medical services, rescue breathing, and~~  
9 ~~administration of an opiate antagonist.~~

10 (5) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context  
11 otherwise requires:

12 (e) "Opiate-related drug overdose event" means an acute  
13 condition, including ~~but not limited to~~ a decreased level of consciousness  
14 or respiratory depression, ~~resulting~~ THAT:

15 (I) RESULTS from the consumption or use of a controlled  
16 substance or another substance with which a controlled substance was  
17 combined; ~~and that~~

18 (II) A layperson would reasonably believe to be an opiate-related  
19 drug overdose event; ~~that~~ AND

20 (III) Requires medical assistance.

21 **SECTION 10. Applicability.** This act applies to conduct  
22 occurring on or after the effective date of this act.

23 **SECTION 11. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
24 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.