

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 01-23

INTRODUCED BY: Medical Student Section
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SUBJECT: Mandatory Naloxone Training at Medical Schools in Maryland

1 Whereas, Maryland is among the five states with the highest opioid overdose death rates⁹, with
2 its rate being double the national average. Since 2020, there has been a sharp increase in
3 overdose deaths in all age groups, men and women³; and
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5 Whereas, fentanyl, a stronger synthetic opioid found in some mixtures of heroin and other illicit
6 substances, is causing an unprecedented number of opioid overdoses and deaths in Baltimore
7 City¹¹. Moreover, the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine are
8 located in Baltimore and therefore uniquely poised to address the urban opioid epidemic; and
9

10 Whereas, adolescents⁷ and individuals who were formerly incarcerated⁸ are vulnerable
11 populations who face distinct challenges that put them at increased risk of opioid overdose; and
12

13 Whereas, rural counties of Maryland have a scarcity of resources available for opioid overdose
14 education, prevention, and response¹⁰. And throughout the United States, opioid overdose death
15 rates have been increasing more rapidly than in rural areas¹⁰; and
16

17 Whereas, Maryland's Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan for 2022-2024 already includes
18 goals about expanding emergency response services and physician involvement in prevention of
19 and response to opioid overdose⁸; and
20

21 Whereas, one of the major barriers that both physicians and medical students faced in
22 administering naloxone rescue medications is the concern that they may not be adequately
23 trained to do so⁴; and
24

25 Whereas, opioid overdose prevention training⁶, especially when integrated into medical students'
26 mandatory Basic Life Support training^{1,5}, was shown to improve medical students' self-efficacy
27 and effectiveness in administering naloxone rescue medications; therefore be it
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29 Resolved, that MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, advocate for the integration of
30 mandatory naloxone training for opioid overdoses into the undergraduate medical education
31 curricula at institutions in Maryland.
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33 Resolved, that MedChi advocate for naloxone training to be publicly available similar to the
34 availability of CPR training.

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As amended and adopted by the House of Delegates on April 30, 2023.

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