

March 4, 2021

North Carolina General Assembly  
Raleigh, NC

The North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) and the physician and PA specialty organizations who have signed this letter are **opposed** to **HB 93 – Require Naloxone with Opioid Scripts**, which would require our members to prescribe an opioid antagonist, such as naloxone, when prescribing opioid medications for patients.

The NCMS and signatory specialty organizations below oppose any mandate that limits or precludes prescriber discretion in prescribing medications. We understand the importance of preventing opioid overdoses, and we share the goal that patients at risk of overdose should receive opioid antagonists. However, the decision to co-prescribe naloxone should be one that is based on a prescriber's clinical judgment. It should not be one mandated by law. Physicians and PAs have the education and training, as well as an understanding of the medical histories of their patients, to determine whether an opioid antagonist is necessary.

Under this mandate, some patients will incur unnecessary prescription costs for a medication they likely will never need or use. Currently in North Carolina, there is a standing order in place that allows any patient at any pharmacy to obtain naloxone without a prescription. We believe this standing order allows all North Carolinians to have easy access to naloxone.

As physician and PA-member organizations, we welcome legislation aimed at opioid overdose prevention and will continue to work with the General Assembly on such legislation. Yet, we cannot support a bill that forecloses our members' discretion in determining what is in the best interest of their patients.

We look forward to working with you during this legislative session on health care policy that will continue to improve the lives of North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

North Carolina Medical Society

Specialty Societies

Carolinas Society of Endocrinologists  
NC Academy of Family Physicians  
NC Academy of Physician Assistants  
NC Chapter of the American College of Physicians  
NC Chapter of the American College of Surgeons  
NC College of Emergency Physicians  
NC Dermatology Association  
NC Neurological Society  
NC Obstetrical and Gynecological Society  
NC Orthopedic Association

NC Pediatric Society  
NC Psychiatric Association  
NC Rheumatology Association  
NC Society of Addiction Medicine  
NC Society of Anesthesiologists  
NC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
NC Society of Gastroenterology  
NC Society of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery  
NC Society of Pathologists  
NC Spine Society

County Medical Societies

Alamance County Medical Society  
Cabarrus County Medical Society  
Durham-Orange County Medical Society  
Mecklenburg County Medical Society  
Sampson County Medical Society  
New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society  
Western Carolina Medical Society