

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
POLICY

Subject: Prevention of Opioid Overdoses
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POLICY STATEMENT

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) recognizes the burden that opioid addiction and prescription drug abuse places on patients and our state alike and reaffirms our support for the identification and treatment of those suffering from opioid addiction.

The SDSMA shall advocate for:

1. The compassionate treatment of patients suffering from addiction;
2. The development and ongoing support of community-based programs offering naloxone and other opioid overdose prevention services;
3. The education of health care workers, opioid users, and their caregivers on the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose.

The SDSMA supports:

1. The continued study, implementation and coverage of appropriate treatments and risk mitigation methods for patients at risk of opioid overdose; and
2. The development and implementation of appropriate education programs for persons in recovery from opioid addiction
 - a. This training should include how a return to opioid use after a period of abstinence can result in an overdose death due to reduced opioid tolerance.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Policy Council, 5/31/2019; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 6/1/2019.