**Greater Miami Valley EMS Council**

**Optional Community Paramedicine EMS Program**

Created by the Research Committee

Distributing Resource Information on Substance Abuse Calls

Updated: July 15, 2024

**Introduction:**

EMS agencies continue to deal with numerous calls for opioid overdoses and other substance abuse issues. One potential aid in combating these increasing calls is to provide information regarding local resources that offer assistance regarding substance abuse.

This program is optional for area departments. If an EMS agency wishes to distribute resource information program, they must have approval from their chief and medical director. This document is offered by Greater Miami Valley EMS Council as a template; actual implementation is entirely the responsibility of the implementing agency/department.

**Purpose:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agency supports community overdose prevention and response efforts and will assist with those efforts, including by providing information on resources for recovery from substance use disorders.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agency will distribute literature regarding available resources for substance abuse during response calls and at other times. This provides the procedure for distributing addiction resource information to assist our patients and their families.

**Target Participants:**

* Individuals with substance abuse issues and their support system (family/friends).

**Distributing Resource Literature Procedure:**

The EMS agency will distribute materials containing information regarding resources available to people with substance abuse issues and their families when responding to overdose calls. This will be accomplished through the following action steps:

1. A designated person in the EMS agency will work with agencies in their county to develop or acquire materials on resources available to the community.

* Examples of resources include information on the following:
  + Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone)
  + Family of Addicts (FOA)
  + Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers
  + Other treatment providers
  + Support services (e.g., AA, Al-Anon)
  + Syringe exchange programs (e.g., Public Health – Dayton and Montgomery County’s CarePoint)
  + Conversation for Change
  + Counterfeit Drug Alerts from local Public Health, social service, and mental health agencies.

1. Resource materials will be carried by all apparatus {or as determined by the agency}. EMS crews will offer those materials to overdose victims, friends, or families as time and circumstances permit while on emergency calls as well as other times and locations.
2. EMS crews will not distribute information when it would interfere with patient care and will not do so when the scene temperament indicates doing so could create confrontations. They may also delay distributing materials (e.g., until after arrival at the hospital). Materials can be left with the patient's belongings to avoid confrontation or if the patient is incapacitated.
3. Each quarter, the resources being distributed will be reviewed to make sure the information is up to date.

One example of such informational resource is the Addiction Resource Card shown below supplied by Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County (PHDMC) to Montgomery County EMS agencies on request. Each card contains contact information for various local resources that can help people struggling with addiction. Family members of people dealing with addiction can also benefit from using the services on the card.

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