



National Association of State EMS Officials Statement of Endorsement

Nalmefene Should Not Replace Naloxone as the Primary Opioid Antidote at this Time

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), upon the recommendation of the NASEMSO Medical Directors Council, endorses the [Joint Position Statement of the American College of Medical Toxicology \(ACMT\) and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology \(AACT\) Nalmefene Should Not Replace Naloxone as the Primary Opioid Antidote at this Time](#).^{1,2}

NASEMSO agrees with ACMT and AACT in recommending the following actions to inform safe and effective opioid reversal:

1. Continue to recommend naloxone as the preferred first-line agent until, and if, more robust clinical and cost data are available to support the routine use of nalmefene.
2. Conduct additional clinical studies of nalmefene (via the intravenous (IV), intramuscular (IM), and intranasal (IN) routes) to determine the effectiveness of the drug in its anticipated clinical setting (overdose patients in hospital and out-of-hospital environments).
3. Evaluate important safety endpoints for nalmefene use, particularly related to complications of opioid reversal, such as acute respiratory distress syndrome and prolonged precipitated withdrawal.
4. Perform comparative studies with naloxone to determine differences in effectiveness, adverse outcomes, effect on emergency department (ED) length of stay and other relevant clinical measures, effect on initiation of medications for opioid use disorder, medication and healthcare cost and overall resource utilization.

¹ Stolbach AI, Mazer-Amirshahi M, Nelson LS, Cole JB. American College of Medical Toxicology and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology Position Statement: Nalmefene Should Not Replace Naloxone as the Primary Opioid Antidote at This Time. *J Med Toxicol*. 2024 Jan;20(1):64-67. doi: 10.1007/s13181-023-00981-z. Epub 2023 Nov 30. Erratum in: *J Med Toxicol*. 2023 Dec 28;; PMID: 38032431; PMCID: PMC10774510.

² Stolbach AI, Mazer-Amirshahi ME, Nelson LS, Cole JB. American College of Medical Toxicology and the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology position statement: nalmefene should not replace naloxone as the primary opioid antidote at this time. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2023 Nov;61(11):952-955. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2023.2283391. Epub 2023 Dec 19. Erratum in: *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2023 Nov;61(11):1012. PMID: 38039052.