

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT
3-Day Supply of Narcotics (Buprenorphine) Proposal
H/MH Article VII Part U**

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (NYACEP) represents over 3,000 dedicated emergency medicine physicians committed to speaking out for broad access to quality health care, especially emergency health services for all citizens.

Currently in New York State we are facing an opioid epidemic. NYACEP strongly supports this legislation which aligns State law with recently revised DEA regulations that permit providers in hospital emergency departments to dispense up to a three-day supply of the schedule III-V narcotics (Buprenorphine) for the purpose of initiating maintenance or detoxification treatment while arrangements are being made for a patient referral.

Patients suffering from an acute overdose, intoxication or withdrawal often present to the Emergency Department (ED) for treatment. The nature of addiction often causes these patients to repeatedly present to the ED. These visits represent a critical opportunity to intervene. Many emergency medicine (EM) clinicians recognize these opportunities as a “call for help” but do not feel empowered to make a difference, typically given a lack of connection to resources outside the ED. While EM physicians might be very comfortable treating the acute phase of illness, the transition to outpatient care is something we typically have no control over. The standard is often to provide information for local addiction treatment services upon discharge. This proposal enables EM clinicians to provide a bridge to help these patients in the short-term between when they are discharged and are able to be referred to the proper outpatient care, enabling their patients to have more success in treating their addiction.

Aligning state law with the recently revised DEA regulations would enable ED physicians to do more for their patients and help provide more complete care to those individuals battling addiction. The New York American College of Emergency Physicians asks that you support this proposal for inclusion in the final budget.