

National and State Legislative and Policy Issues

2019 State Legislative Priorities

- ▶ State Health Plan
- ▶ Preserving the Medicaid Safety Net
- ▶ Certificate of Need
- ▶ Graduate Medical Education
- ▶ Telehealth
- ▶ Behavioral Health
- ▶ Increased Access to Health Insurance Coverage
- ▶ Assignment of Benefits

State Health Plan (SHP)

- ▶ Clear Pricing Project was intended to move to Medicare Reference Based Prices but has been postponed.
 - The SHP shall continue to operate under its current contract.
 - Study national best practices of health plan administration and value-based delivery models, cost-efficient plan designs, long-term liability of SHP on state's budget, impact of changes in reimbursement models to the healthcare safety net, and ways to improve transparency for beneficiaries

Preserving the Medicaid Safety Net

- ▶ North Carolina's hospitals and health systems support a legislative approach that ensures federal funds received through supplemental payment programs and hospital taxes support hospital-based care for the uninsured. Hospitals and health systems oppose distributing those funds to entities that do not contribute to the tax or treat patients.

Assignment of Benefits

- ▶ North Carolina's hospitals and health systems support measures to ensure that providers are reimbursed for care provided to patients who have insurance coverage.

Certificate of Need

- ▶ North Carolina's hospitals and health systems support the current Certificate of Need law and urge our legislators to protect the law, thereby protecting access to care for our communities.

Increased Access to Health Insurance Coverage

- ▶ North Carolina hospitals and health systems support increased access to affordable health insurance coverage for all North Carolinians and urge the General Assembly to close the coverage gap.

2019 Federal Legislative Priorities

- ▶ Surprise Billing
- ▶ Drug Pricing Programs

Surprise Billing

- ▶ North Carolina's hospitals and health systems support efforts to protect patients from surprise bills and oppose efforts to set benchmark rates because they remove negotiating power and favor insurance companies.

Drug Pricing Programs

- ▶ North Carolina Hospitals and Health Systems support the 340B Drug Discount program as it enables hospitals to fund more critical services for the underserved. The program receives no tax support and has no impact on the federal budget.

S.B. 630 – Changes to the Involuntary Commitment Process (IVC)

UNDERSTANDING CHANGES TO THE INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT PROCESS



Senate Bill 630: *Revise Involuntary Commitment (IVC) Laws to Improve Behavioral Health* became law June 22, 2018. With overwhelming bipartisan support, **SB 630** provides a comprehensive update to be in line with best practices for involuntary commitment, voluntary treatment, and outpatient commitment.

What do these changes mean for you and your patients? Click below to learn more.

Voluntary Admission

Involuntary Commitment

Outpatient Commitment

NCHA STAFF CONTACT



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- Law goes into effect on October 1, 2019 **DELAYED**
- Interactive educational tool on the NCHA website geared towards healthcare professionals:
<https://www.ncha.org/ivcbill/>
- Questions? Contact Nicholle Karim, Director of Behavioral Health, at nkarim@ncha.org or 919-677-4105

Initiatives to Curb the Opioid Epidemic

OPIOID DIVERSION TOOLKIT

The Coalition for Model Opioid Practices in Health Systems has created a Healthcare Worker Diversion Toolkit with information and best practices to prevent and respond to a healthcare worker experiencing a substance use disorder.

[LEARN MORE](#)

HEALTH SYSTEM RESPONSE

Emergency Departments act as a safety net for many of society's challenges, including the growing opioid epidemic. The Health System Response working group is creating strategies and best practices to shift the culture and behavior of clinicians within EDs to prevent and treat opioid use disorders.

[Learn More](#)

PATIENT EDUCATION & PREVENTION

Upstream approaches to prevent addiction is a cornerstone of NCHA's opioid response strategy. Patient education about prescribed opioids and safe pain management strategies for prescribers is a vital first step.

[Learn More](#)

Newly designed NCHA opioid webpage for easily accessible tools + information

Three workgroups with hospitals and community partners creating the opioid tools

Work is funded through the Division of Public Health – Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

Healthcare Worker Diversion Prevention Toolkit

HEALTHCARE WORKER DIVERSION PREVENTION TOOLKIT

Healthcare professionals are not exempt from experiencing a mental health challenge or substance use disorder. In fact, working in a fast-paced, intense environment coupled with responding to traumatic events may increase the likelihood of developing mental health challenges. In some situations, healthcare professionals may have access to controlled substances on the job, creating a situation in which diversion of drugs is a **risk**.

The **Coalition for Model Opioid Practices in Health Systems**, a project of the **North Carolina Healthcare Association**, has created a toolkit with information and **best practices** to prevent and respond to healthcare worker diversion of controlled substances.

An Introduction to the *Coalition for Model Opioid Practices in Health Systems'* Diversion Prevention Toolkit: Webinar – Nov 7, 2018

[Slides \(PDF\)](#)

[Recording \(YouTube\)](#)

NCHA STAFF CONTACT



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- ▶ Collaborative effort between multiple stakeholders, including hospitals, government agencies, and community partners
- ▶ Best practices for how to prevent opioid diversion within your hospital along with how to respond when diversion occurs
- ▶ Questions? Contact Madison Ward Willis at mward@ncha.org or 919-677-4136

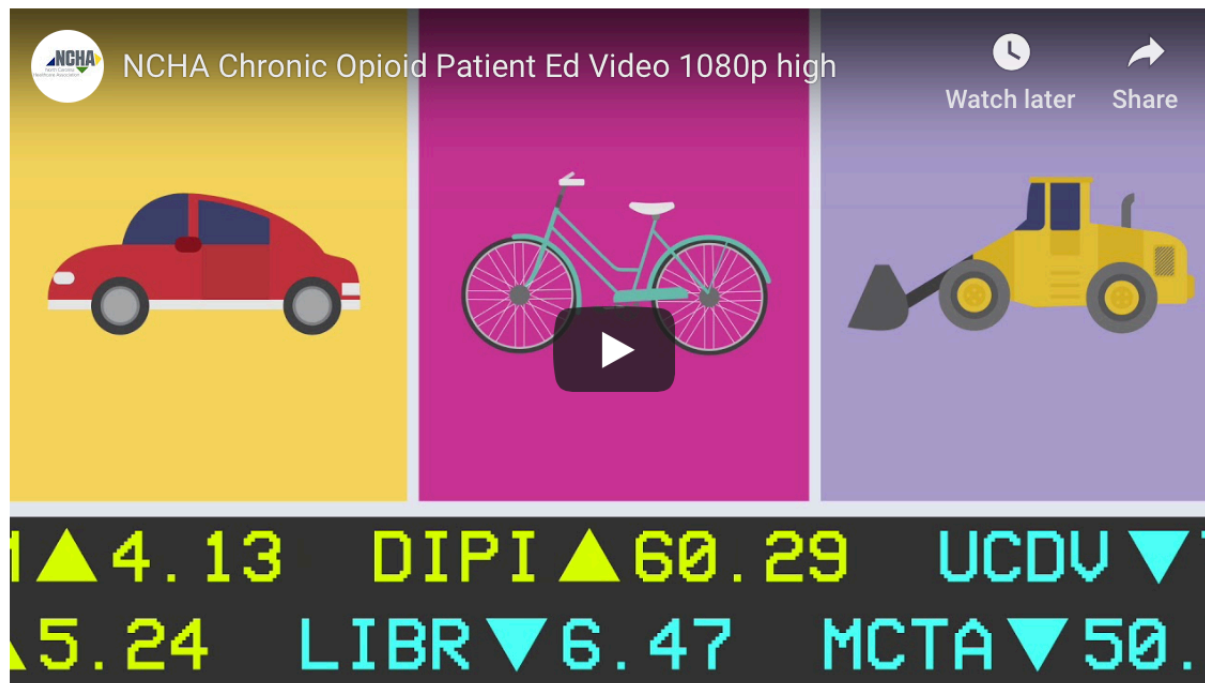
Hospital Response – ED Pathway for OUD + Safe Prescribing/Non-Opioid Therapies

- ▶ Standardized best practices for EDs to employ for the following:
 - Non-opioid therapies for pain management
 - Safe prescribing
 - Stigma elimination + culture shift
 - Responding to opioid use disorders (OUD) within the ED

- ▶ Available September 2019: <https://www.ncha.org/health-system-response/>

Patient Education on Opioids

NCHA OPIOID PATIENT EDUCATION VIDEO



- ▶ Patient handout on safe use of opioids free to hospitals and clinics prescribing opioids.
- ▶ [Video for patient education on safely taking opioids + recognizing signs of addiction](#)
- ▶ Free and available for hospitals to embed within patient-facing EMRs
- ▶ Want to use these resources in your hospital? Contact Madison Ward Willis at mward@ncha.org or 919-677-4136

Questions?

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