



National Association of State
Controlled Substances Authorities

NASCSA Resolution 2022-03

October 2022

Salt Lake City, Utah

**A Resolution Encouraging the Expanded Role of Pharmacists to Address the
Opioid Crisis**

WHEREAS, recent reports from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that there were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths, with an increase of 28.5%, during the 12-month period ending April 2021; and¹

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, NASCSA, and states have advocated for the review and removal of unnecessary regulations to facilitate access to lifesaving treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD); and^{2,3}

WHEREAS, during the March 7, 2022, State of the Union address, President Biden called for strong, bipartisan action in Congress to eliminate outdated barriers preventing health professionals from prescribing lifesaving addiction treatments; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health funded research is studying how pharmacists can work collaboratively with other health care professionals to provide elements of OUD treatment, and in particular looking at ways to improve access to treatment by being more flexible about requirements and expanding the scope of pharmacy practice; and^{4, 5}

WHEREAS, pharmacists are especially well positioned to contribute to safe opioid use due to their role dispensing opioid prescriptions and accessibility to patients. Pharmacists also can monitor and recognize signs of opioid misuse, extend patient counseling, distribute naloxone and are knowledgeable about addiction treatment options. Although pharmacists are equipped to provide these services to help mitigate the opioid crises, current literature documents that pharmacists' breadth of opportunities for services is far from fully realized; and^{6, 7}

WHEREAS, recognizing, that a handful of States have changed or are considering changes to their laws, regulations, and guidelines, to expand the authority of pharmacists to administer controlled substances for the purposes of OUD treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASCSA endorses and supports applicable state authorities and pharmacist organizations for the expansion of pharmacists' authority to collaborate in OUD treatment, including expanding the authority of pharmacists to administer long-acting injectable OUD treatments.

ATTEST: _____ *Alan J. McGill* _____
President

DATE: October 26, 2022

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 annually. November 17, 2021. [Drug Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Top 100,000 Annually \(cdc.gov\)](#)
2. The PEW Charitable Trusts, PEW. Improved Opioid treatment Programs Would Expand Access to Quality Care. [Improved Opioid Treatment Programs Would Expand Access to Quality Care | The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](#)
3. NASCSA Resolution 2021-01, October 2021. [res21.01.pdf \(nascsa.org\)](#)
4. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/physician-pharmacist-collaboration-may-increase-adherence-opioid-addiction-treatment>, Wu, et al, *Buprenorphine physician–pharmacist collaboration in the management of patients with opioid use disorder: results from a multisite study of the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network*, *Addiction*. January 11, 2021
5. APhA, American Pharmacists Association. [Advocacy Issues \(pharmacist.com\)](#)
6. NCBI, June 13, 2019. [Pharmacist Services in the Opioid Crisis: Current Practices and Scope in the United States](#)
7. Journal of American College of Clinical Pharmacy, September 2020. Mobilizing pharmacists to address the opioid crisis: <https://accpjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jac5.1331>