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## *Lawrence + Memorial Hospital to Purchase Narcan for Local Police*

*New London, CT* ~ In an attempt to enhance response to the region's opioid epidemic, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital announced today that it will purchase Narcan (Nalaxone) – an effective antidote to opioid overdoses – for police departments in its primary service area.

Within the next several weeks, L+M has or will provide municipal departments with about a one-year's supply of Narcan to administer in cases of first response to an individual who is believed to have overdosed on heroin or another opioid.

"Hospital leadership believed it was extremely important to get Narcan into the hands of first responders now," said Ron Kersey, L+M's veteran EMS Coordinator. "There isn't the time for budget requests and grant submissions. They need the Narcan now because people are dying. The first day this Narcan was available to the Waterford Police Department, they saved a life."

The initiative began earlier this spring in the form of a pilot program when Waterford Police Chief Brett Mahoney inquired about L+M's willingness to purchase the drug for first-response use by its police officers.

After ensuring that Waterford Police personnel had undergone proper training in the use of Narcan, L+M's Emergency Medical Service purchased the drug for Waterford Police Department's immediate use. Within two days of delivery, three doses of Narcan were used in response to reported overdoses – including the one in which a patient's life was saved.

"L+M's willingness to help our community is admirable. Their donation of this life-saving medication paid off the day we received it," Chief Mahoney reported. "We appreciate L+M's enthusiasm with this initiative in a time when municipal budgets are strained."

Since then, Chief Mahoney has surveyed other municipal departments in L+M's primary service area and passed along requests from East Lyme, Ledyard, and Groton City and Town police departments. Delivery of those doses is underway to those communities' police departments, Kersey said. Stonington Police contacted L+M directly and has already received its Narcan.

The delivery of Narcan is especially timely during a period when municipalities throughout Connecticut are suffering from substantial cuts in state funding. Kersey said L+M is purchasing Narcan this year, but said the program gives municipalities time to explore funding future purchases.