

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 1, 2019

**TO:** Alaskan Health Care Providers

**FROM:** Dr. Lily Lou, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Services

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of the Voluntary Nonopioid Directive Form

Under direction of [AS 13.55.010](#), the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has developed a Voluntary Nonopioid Directive (VNOD) form for public use. This form allows for individuals who wish to decline future treatment with opioids to complete the form with their health care provider. The VNOD is available on DHSS' website at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Pages/opioids/VNOD.aspx>

### **Provider Responsibilities**

DHSS encourages patients to complete the Voluntary Nonopioid Directive in consultation with their primary care provider or behavioral health treatment provider. If a health care provider receives a signed VNOD, it must be recorded in the patient's medical record.

Prior to prescribing, administering, or offering an opioid drug product to a patient, a provider should check the individual's medical record to determine whether a VNOD has been recorded. Unless revoked by the patient verbally or in writing, a provider should consider a signed VNOD as the patient's non-consent to opioid treatment.

The existence of a signed VNOD:

- Does not alter an advance health care directive.
- Does not limit the prescribing, dispensing, or administering of an opioid overdose drug.
- Does not prohibit offering, prescribing or administering opioid medications for the purpose of medication assisted treatment, as approved for such use by the FDA.

To access the Voluntary Nonopioid Directive and find additional guidance, follow the links below:

### **Voluntary Nonopioid Directive:**

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Documents/opioids/AdvancedDirectiveV3.pdf>

### **VNOD Additional Guidance:**

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Documents/opioids/VNODAdditionalInstructions.pdf>

Additional questions may be directed to the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention: email [osmap@alaska.gov](mailto:osmap@alaska.gov) or call (907) 332-2602.



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