

MAURA HEALEY

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General

> ONE ASHBURTON PLACE BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

> > TEL: (617) 727-2200 www.mass.gov/ago

February 5, 2015

Jack Y. Zhang, Ph.D Chief Executive Officer Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 11570 6th Street Rancho Cucamonga, California 91730

Dear Dr. Zhang:

I write to express the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General's interest in discussing the recent price spikes for Amphastar Pharmaceutical's naloxone products and the conditions of the deal announced between Amphastar and the New York Attorney General's Office to cap naloxone prices for public purchasers.

As you well know, deaths caused by an overdose on heroin or other opiates have increased ten times over in the last decade. Last year, heroin tainted with fentanyl entered our state and the number of fatalities surged to hundreds in just a few months. Opiate abuse and addiction are ravaging communities in all parts of Massachusetts.

On March 27, 2014, former Governor Deval L. Patrick addressed the rising epidemic by declaring a public health emergency and instituting regulatory changes under emergency powers that made naloxone immediately available to all first responders in Massachusetts.

However, just shortly after Massachusetts changed its rules to allow all first responders to carry and use the drug, Amphastar raised prices. Since June of 2014, reports indicate that the cost of the medication has increased 111 percent, from \$19.56 to \$41.43 for a 2 milliliter dose. These increases have strained access to this life-saving medication at exactly the moment when it is most needed. My office has heard regularly from local law enforcement and public health workers worried about their ability to maintain supplies.

For these reasons, I am interested in hearing from you about the price increases and the ways you would suggest making naloxone available to protect Massachusetts residents at this critical time. I expect that Margret Cooke, Chief of the Health Care Division and a leader of the office's Opiate & Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force, will be following up. Marget can be reached at 617.963.2947 and I can be reached at 617.963.2539.

Your company's medication has saved many lives in our state. I know we share the goal of making naloxone available to law enforcement, health workers, and communities in need. I

am confident we will have a productive discussion and would welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly.

Sincerely, In Chris Barry-Smith

First Assistant Attorney General