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**\*\*\*Attention Medicaid Providers and Pharmacies\*\*\***

**Important Information Regarding the Statewide Standing Order for Naloxone**

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the state law establishing a statewide standing order for naloxone dispensing was signed into law. This statewide standing order, which serves as a broad prescription, allows any pharmacist licensed in NC to dispense naloxone to any patient who meets the standing order criteria without first receiving a traditional (hand-written, phoned, faxed) prescription. The standing order does NOT make naloxone available over-the-counter (OTC) and it does NOT give the pharmacist prescribing authority because the pharmacist is still dispensing naloxone pursuant to an issued prescription from a prescriber.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NC DHHS”) has set up a website to educate pharmacists and the public about the statewide standing order. It may be found at [www.naloxonesaves.org](http://www.naloxonesaves.org).

**Does my pharmacy need to notify the Division of Public Health (“DPH”) that we intend to dispense naloxone under the statewide standing order?**

- Although not a requirement, DPH does ask that your pharmacy notify them through the form on [www.naloxonesaves.org](http://www.naloxonesaves.org) if your pharmacy decides to dispense naloxone under the statewide standing order.

**Who is eligible to receive naloxone under the standing order?**

- Persons who voluntarily request naloxone and are:
  1. At risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose
  2. The family member or friend of a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose
  3. In the position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose
- Ultimately, it’s up to the clinical judgment of the pharmacist to decide who’s at risk for overdose; however, the standing order provides a non-exhaustive list of examples for those who may be at risk for overdose.

**Can a pharmacist initiate a conversation with a patient about naloxone even though the standing order says that the patient must “voluntarily request” naloxone?**

- Yes. If a pharmacist identifies a patient whom the pharmacist believes may be at risk for overdose, that pharmacist may initiate a conversation with the patient to determine whether he or she would like to receive naloxone. At that point, if the patient indicates a desire to obtain naloxone, he or she would be considered to have “voluntarily requested” the drug under the standing order.

**What naloxone products are covered under the standing order?**

- Narcan® Nasal Spray and generic naloxone ampules/syringes/vials can be dispensed under the standing order. These products are preferred on the NC Medicaid and Health Choice Preferred Drug List. Private insurance and Medicare Part D coverage will vary according to plan. If a patient does not have insurance or their insurance will not cover naloxone, they can pay the cash price for naloxone which will vary by location.

**Where can I find more information about the statewide standing order for naloxone?**

- More information can be found on [www.naloxonesaves.org](http://www.naloxonesaves.org), including more FAQs, patient education handouts, a map of all pharmacies dispensing under the standing order, and local treatment resources.

## North Carolina State Health Director's Standing Order for Naloxone

This standing order signed by the North Carolina State Health Director authorizes any pharmacist practicing in the state of North Carolina and licensed by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy to dispense the following Naloxone products to persons as directed below.

<b>Naloxone HCl Dispensing Protocol</b>			
<b>Eligible Candidates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Persons who voluntarily request Naloxone and are at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose, including, but not limited to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Current illicit or non-medical opioid users or persons with a history of such use</li> <li>– Persons with a history of opioid intoxication or overdose and/or recipients of emergency medical care for acute opioid poisoning</li> <li>– Persons with a high dose opioid prescription (&gt;50 morphine mg equivalents per day)</li> <li>– Persons with an opioid prescription and known or suspected concurrent alcohol use</li> <li>– Persons from opioid detoxification and mandatory abstinence programs</li> <li>– Persons entering methadone maintenance treatment programs (for addiction or pain)</li> <li>– Persons with opioid prescription and smoking/COPD or other respiratory illness or obstruction</li> <li>– Persons with an opioid prescription who also suffer from renal dysfunction, hepatic disease, cardiac disease, HIV/AIDS</li> <li>– Persons who may have difficulty accessing emergency medical services</li> <li>– Persons enrolled in prescription lock in programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Persons who voluntarily request Naloxone and are the family member or friend of a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.</li> <li>▪ Persons who voluntarily request Naloxone and are in the position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose.</li> </ul>		
<b>Route(s) of Administration</b>	<b>Intranasal (IN)</b> <i>Preferred method</i>		<b>Intramuscular (IM)</b> Inject into shoulder or thigh
<b>Medication and Required Device for Administration</b>	Naloxone HCl 1 mg/mL Inj. 2 x 2 mL as pre-filled Luer-Lock syringes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dispense 2 (two) doses</li> </ul> 2 (two) x Intranasal Mucosal Atomizing Devices (MAD 300) Available from: Teleflex (866-246-6990) or Safety Works, Inc. (800-723-3892)	Narcan® 4 mg/0.1 mL Nasal Spray <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dispense 1 x two-pack</li> </ul>	Naloxone HCl 0.4mg/mL Inj. 2 x 1 mL single dose vials (SDV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dispense 2 (two) SDV</li> </ul> 2 (two) x intramuscular (IM) syringe, 3mL, 25 G, 1 inch
<b>Directions for Use</b>	Spray 1 mL in each nostril. Repeat after 3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Administer a single spray of NARCAN® in one nostril. Repeat after 3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Inject 1 mL IM in shoulder or thigh. Repeat after 3 minutes if no or minimal response.
<b>Refills</b>	PRN		
<b>Contraindications</b>	A history of known hypersensitivity to Naloxone or any of its components		
<b>Patient Education</b>	Every person dispensed Naloxone under this standing order shall receive education regarding the risk factors of overdose, signs of an overdose, overdose response steps, and the use of Naloxone. Examples of educational materials that incorporate the above information may be found at <a href="http://www.naloxonesaves.org">http://www.naloxonesaves.org</a> .		
<b>Notification of Participation</b>	Pharmacies choosing to participate in Naloxone distribution under the authority of this standing order shall notify the Division of Public Health when initiating their participation; see directions for notification at <a href="http://www.naloxonesaves.org">http://www.naloxonesaves.org</a> .		

June 20, 2016

Dr. Randall Williams, MD  
National Provider ID: 1427013002

Date

This order is effective immediately upon signing and may be revised or revoked by the State Health Director according to his/her discretion.