



**Louisiana Department of Health
Informational Bulletin 17-1
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Naloxone Now Available for Emergency Overdose Treatment Via Standing Order

Laypeople who come to the aid of an individual who has overdosed on heroin, morphine or other opioid drugs can now receive the lifesaving medication naloxone without having to get a direct prescription from a doctor. Naloxone is an antidote medication that reverses an opioid overdose. Used by medical professionals for years, naloxone is an effective way to counteract an overdose and save lives.

The state of Louisiana has issued a standing order for naloxone. This allows for participating pharmacists to dispense naloxone to laypeople including caregivers, family and friends of an opioid user. This standing order also includes directions on how to administer naloxone to someone who has overdosed.

Now, anyone can get naloxone from a participating pharmacy in case they need to assist someone who is overdosing. Those who receive naloxone will be provided education about how to recognize an overdose, how to store and administer the medication, and emergency follow-up procedures.

Dr. Rebekah Gee, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), signed the standing order. LDH strives to protect and promote health statewide and to ensure access to medical, preventive and rehabilitative services for all state residents. Making naloxone widely available is an important tool in saving the lives of people who have overdosed on opioids.

Please refer to the standing order below for details.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

Standing Order for the Distribution or Dispensing of Naloxone or Other Opioid Antagonists

Background and Purpose

Naloxone, and other opioid antagonists, is a prescription medication indicated for the reversal of respiratory depression or unresponsiveness due to opioid overdose. Given the current public health emergency relative to the misuse and abuse of opioid derivatives, it has been determined that widespread availability of opioid antagonists to addicts and their caregivers, as well as first responders in the community, would serve the public interest. For as long as Naloxone, and other such opioid antagonists, remain classified as prescription drugs by the federal Food and Drug Administration, pharmacists must secure a prescription or order from a prescriber with the legal authority to prescribe said drug product in order to dispense or distribute the drug product. Thus, the Louisiana Legislature has adopted a number of laws designed to facilitate the distribution and dispensing of Naloxone, or other opioid antagonists, beyond the person who would need the medication on an emergent basis to manage an opioid-related drug overdose; specifically first responders, caregivers, and family / friends of potential patients.

According to La. R.S. 40:978.2, a licensed medical practitioner may, directly or by **standing order** (emphasis added), prescribe or dispense the drug Naloxone or another opioid antagonist without having examined the individual to whom it may be administered if two conditions are met. First, the licensed medical practitioner must provide the individual receiving and administering the naloxone or other opioid antagonist all training required by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) for the safe and proper administration of naloxone or another opioid antagonist to individuals who are undergoing, or who are believed to be undergoing, an opioid-related drug overdose. According to the statute, the training, at a minimum, shall address (1) techniques on how to recognize signs of opioid-related overdose, (2) standards and procedures for the storage and administration of naloxone or another opioid antagonist and (3) emergency follow-up procedures including the requirement to summon emergency services either immediately before or immediately after administering the naloxone or other opioid antagonist to an individual apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Second, the naloxone, or other opioid antagonist, must be prescribed or dispensed in such a manner that it shall be administered through a device approved for this purpose by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Authorization

This standing order is issued in compliance with, and under the authority of, La. R.S. 40:978.2 and shall be deemed as a medical order for naloxone, or other opioid antagonist, as long as the conditions of the statute are met. This standing order shall be valid for one year from the date of issue below.

Training and Instructional Materials

In accordance with the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy's regulations ([LAC 46:LIII.2541](#)), the pharmacist distributing the Naloxone, or other opioid antagonist, must verify the recipient's knowledge and understanding of the proper use of the drug product. At a minimum, this must include (1) techniques on how to recognize signs of an opioid-related drug overdose, (2) standards and procedures for the storage and administration of the drug product, and (3) emergency follow-up procedures, including the

requirement to summon emergency services either immediately before or immediately after administering the drug product to the individual experiencing the overdose.

Dosage and Refills

Further, refills may be obtained as needed pursuant to this order. Do not administer Naloxone for usage on an individual with known hypersensitivity to Naloxone, or to any other ingredient that may be referenced in the package insert of Naloxone, or any other opioid antagonist prescribed and / or dispensed.


Reimbursement

For reimbursement purposes, it may be necessary to have the medication dispensed in the name of the insured. This standing order authorizes the pharmacist to prepare a prescription for naloxone or other opioid antagonist, with refills authorized, in the name of the insured, and then dispense that product. This standing order, in and of itself, should not be relied upon as a guaranty of reimbursement from any payer source.

Recordkeeping

In order to comply with the recordkeeping requirements found in the Board of Pharmacy rules and regulations, the pharmacist shall attach a copy of this standing order to the invoice, or other record of sale of distribution. Further, the pharmacist shall store these transaction documents with the other distribution records in the pharmacy.

I hereby declare this standing order as a statewide medical order for the dispensing of naloxone, or other opioid antagonistic product as long as the requirements of La. R.S. 40:978.2 and LAC 46:LIII.2541 are satisfied. Any pharmacy licensed by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy may rely on this standing order for the distribution or dispensing of naloxone or other opioid antagonist to any Louisiana resident.



Rebekah Gee, MD, MPH
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Health

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