

# NALOXONE HCL PHARMACIST DISPENSING STANDING ORDER PROTOCOL (updated July 2023)



For more information and to view the full 2023 Naloxone Action Kit for Pharmacists, visit: <https://www.phila.gov/documents/2023-naloxone-action-kit-for-pharmacists/>

<b>Eligible Candidates</b>	<p>Anyone who requests naloxone.</p> <p>Pharmacists may opt to conduct an assessment to identify additional patients to offer naloxone. The following factors may serve as screening criteria in a pharmacy context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking prescription pain relievers (i.e., Vicodin, Percocet, oxycodone);</li> <li>• Taking methadone or buprenorphine (Suboxone) for the treatment of opioid use disorder;</li> <li>• Having concurrent prescription for opioids and benzodiazepines;</li> <li>• Having experienced a previous non-fatal opioid overdose (if known);</li> <li>• Having a family member or friend who meets any of the above criteria.</li> </ul> <p>There is no age limit for dispensing naloxone, but pharmacists may decline to give it to someone under the age 16; however, PDPH does recommend that teens who request naloxone be allowed to purchase it.</p>				
<b>Payment/ Reimbursement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacists can treat the standing order as a verbal order for Medical Assistance beneficiaries.</li> <li>• The dispensing of naloxone formulations in accordance with the standing order regulations allows pharmacists to bill Medical Assistance, State funded insurance plans, and private insurance plans. Most formulations of naloxone are covered by third party plans.</li> <li>• Patients on Medical Assistance do not have a copay for naloxone. If a patient has a copay, then direct them to the Department of Aging Copay Assistance Coupon included in the 2023 Naloxone Action Kit. (NOTE: Copay coupon can be used with over-the-counter Naloxone)</li> <li>• For information on submitting a claim using the Naloxone Copay Assistance program, view the provider bulletin in the 2023 Naloxone Action Kit.</li> <li>• The PA DHS Pharmacy Services website has information on Medical Assistance billing procedures for naloxone: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Billing">https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Billing</a></li> </ul>				
<b>Clinical Pharmacology Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naloxone prevents or reverses the effects of opioids including respiratory depression, sedation, and hypotension.</li> <li>• It is indicated for reversal of an opioid overdose induced by natural and synthetic opioids.</li> <li>• The duration of naloxone is 30-90 minutes.</li> <li>• The bioavailability of naloxone administered via a nasal spray compared to an intramuscular injection is approximately 50% (<a href="#">Krieter et al., 2016</a>). Naloxone cannot be misused, abused, or cause overdose.</li> </ul>				
<b>Contraindications</b>	<p>Known hypersensitivity to naloxone.</p>				
<b>Precautions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naloxone may cause symptoms of opioid withdrawal: anxiety, running nose and eyes, chills, muscle discomfort, disorientation, combativeness, nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhea.</li> <li>• Naloxone is not effective against respiratory depression due to non-opioids.</li> <li>• Administering naloxone to patients taking opioid medication for a painful illness, such as cancer or sickle cell anemia, can cause a pain crisis.</li> </ul>				
<b>Route</b>	<b>Intranasal (IN)</b>			<b>Intramuscular (IM)</b>	
<b>Products</b>	Narcan®	Prefilled luer Lock syringes	Kloxxado®	1ml single dose vials	ZIHHI®
<b>Medication</b>	Naloxone HCl 4mg/0.1mL (4mg)	Naloxone HCl 1mg/mL (1mg)	Naloxone HCl 4mg/0.1mL (8mg)	Naloxone HCl 0.4 mg/mL 0.4mg)	Naloxone HCl 5mg/0.5mL (5mg)
<b>Device/Quantity Dispensed</b>	Two pack of single-use intranasal spray devices	Two 2mL pre-filled Luer-Lock syringes Two intranasal mucosal atomizing device (MAD 300)	Two pack of single-use intranasal spray devices	Two single dose vials Two 3ml syringes and 23–35-gauge, 1-1.5-inch needles	Two pack of single-use auto-injector devices
<b>Sig</b>	For suspected opioid overdose, call 911 and follow package instructions.	For suspected opioid overdose, call 911 and spray 1 mL in each nostril.	For suspected opioid overdose, call 911 and follow package instructions.	For suspected opioid overdose, call 911 and inject 1 mL intramuscularly in shoulder or thigh.	For suspected opioid overdose, call 911 and follow package instructions.
<b>Refills</b>	As needed (recommended)				
<b>Prescription Label</b>	Naloxone dispensed via standing order, prescription label should have the following terms: “Dispensed per standing order”, “Use as directed”, “Education information provided” “Refills as needed.”				
<b>Training and instruction materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is strongly advised that people obtaining naloxone under the standing order receive training approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. To complete the recommended training, go here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Training">https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Training</a></li> <li>• Lack of prior training should not prevent naloxone dispensing.</li> <li>• Provide people obtaining naloxone with a brochure from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, included in the 2023 Naloxone Action Kit.</li> <li>• For instructions on using Narcan® - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Video">https://tinyurl.com/PA-Naloxone-Video</a> OR <a href="https://tinyurl.com/Next-Distro-Video">https://tinyurl.com/Next-Distro-Video</a></li> </ul>				