



# Pharmacy Standing Order Procedures for Naloxone Distribution

November 2016

## Background

Opioid overdose is a major public health crisis. In 2015, 393 people died in Baltimore City of drug and alcohol overdoses, a 30% increase from 2014. Of those who died of overdose in 2015, 260 people died from heroin intoxication. This is more than the number of people who died of homicide in Baltimore City. Across the country local, state, and federal agencies are mobilizing to address this rising health epidemic.

Maryland Law SB 516: Public Health – Overdose Response Program went into effect on October 1, 2015. It permits a physician employed by a local health department to have a jurisdiction-wide standing order prescription for naloxone. The law permits standing orders for naloxone to act a prescription for anyone presenting to a pharmacist a naloxone certificate. Naloxone certificates are given to people who have been through training by a state approved entity. Each card has the person's name and a certificate serial number. The card states:

*“(name) is hereby authorized to obtain a prescription for naloxone in the certificate holder’s name, and to possess and administer naloxone in accordance with Health- General Article, Title 13, Subtitle 31, Annotated Code of Maryland.”*

## Procedures for Naloxone Standing Order

### Pharmacist Actions

Below are the action steps a pharmacist should take to dispense naloxone under the standing order:

1. Keep a copy of the standing order prescription on file and readily retrievable at your pharmacy.
2. Screen individual for a valid state naloxone certificate.

3. Confirm Dr. Wen's National Provider Identification (NPI) number by calling 410-433-5175.
4. Dispense the naloxone kit and explain contents to the individual. Multiple formulations will be approved for dispensing, with each clearly written out:

***Nasal Narcan:***

NARCAN Nasal Spray (4mg of naloxone hydrochloride in 0.1mL)

*Directions:* spray into one nostril. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

***Intranasal:***

Naloxone (2 mg/2mL) single dose Luer-Lock prefilled syringe. Qty = 2 syringes

Dispense with intranasal mucosal atomizer device

*Directions:* spray one-half of syringe (1ml) into each nostril upon signs of opioid overdose. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

***Intramuscular:***

Naloxone 0.4mg/ml single dose vial and 3cc, 23g, 1 inch syringes. Qty = 2 vials

*Directions:* Inject 1mL in shoulder or thigh. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

***Auto-injector:***

Evzio auto-injectors (Naloxone 0.4 mg)

*Directions:* Use as instructed by device. May repeat x1, if no response after 3 minutes.

5. Fill the naloxone prescription as any other prescription utilizing the person's health insurance coverage.
  1. In Maryland, Narcan nasal spray naloxone and intranasal and intramuscular naloxone are covered by Medicaid fee- for-service with a \$1 copay. Evzio is a \$3 co-pay but requires pre-authorization from the prescriber.
  2. Only DME pharmacies are able to bill Medicaid for intranasal muscosal atomizers devices (LMA MAD 300z). Some non-DME pharmacies will provide the atomizer to patients free. Pharmacists can also direct patients to DME pharmacies if they cannot afford the atomizer out of pocket cost.
6. Provide additional material and information, including instructions for naloxone use and how to access substance use disorder or behavioral health treatment.

## **Standing Order Information**

This is a unique opportunity for pharmacies and BCHD to work together to address a public health crisis. Pharmacies can contact Mark O'Brien, Baltimore City's Director of Opioid Overdose Prevention and Treatment, [mark.obrien@bhsbaltimore.org](mailto:mark.obrien@bhsbaltimore.org), to request standing order prescriptions for naloxone. The standing order model is reviewed and reissued every two years.