



## **FAQ on Naloxone, Standing Orders and How the Good Samaritan Law Affects Pharmacists**

Under the Good Samaritan law, laypeople in North Carolina are able to access, carry and administer naloxone to reverse the effects of an opioid/opiate overdose. North Carolina's Good Samaritan law (SB20) provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for people who administer or dispense naloxone. Under a standing order written by a healthcare provider with prescriptive authority, anyone who is at risk for an opioid/opiate overdose, or anyone in a position to assist someone experiencing an overdose, can seek naloxone.

In August 2015, new changes to the Good Samaritan law (SB154) went into effect allowing pharmacists to also dispense naloxone under a standing order.

Since 2013, the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has distributed more than 21,000 overdose rescue kits containing naloxone, resulting in 2,093 overdose rescues (as of 2/5/16). The NCHRC works in overdose prevention and provides resources and trainings to community partners interested in reducing the number of overdose deaths in North Carolina.

### **Q: How does the change in the Good Samaritan law affect pharmacists?**

*A: As of August 2015, pharmacists can dispense naloxone under a standing order according to SB 154, which amended the original Good Samaritan law. With the new law changes in effect, pharmacists are also immune from civil or criminal liability if they dispense naloxone under a standing order. For more information on the law, click [here](#) for the full text of SB 154.*

### **Q: What is a standing order?**

*A: A standing order is a broad general prescription that allows naloxone to be dispensed to anyone who meets the criteria of the standing order without the need for a handwritten/faxed prescription for every single person. The guidelines of a typical naloxone standing order generally state that anyone at risk for an opioid/opiate overdose, anyone who may be in a position to assist someone experiencing an overdose, or anyone who requests naloxone, may receive naloxone.*

**Q: I’m interested in dispensing naloxone at my pharmacy. How do I get a standing order for naloxone?**

*A: Any healthcare provider with prescriptive authority can write a standing order for naloxone to be used at your pharmacy. If your pharmacy has a good working relationship with a local healthcare provider with prescriptive authority, he or she may be willing to write a standing order for your pharmacy. Health/Medical Directors at Local Health Departments have also been willing to write standing orders for community pharmacies in their county. Pharmacies can also request that the NCHRC provide them with a standing order for naloxone.*

*To obtain a standing order from the NCHRC for your pharmacy, please submit a letter of request to the NCHRC. Our medical director, Dr. Logan Graddy, can write a standing order for your pharmacy specifically, allowing you and other pharmacists employed in the pharmacy to dispense naloxone.*

*The letter of request will need to be submitted to NCHRC on a yearly basis. To submit a letter of request for a standing order, please contact Hyun Namkoong, Harm Reduction Services and Advocacy Coordinator, at [hnamkoong88@gmail.com](mailto:hnamkoong88@gmail.com) or by phone at (919)-218-4505.*

*Documentation and record-keeping requirements for naloxone are the same as other prescriptions dispensed out of your pharmacy. However, to receive a standing order for your pharmacy from NCHRC, the NCHRC asks the pharmacy to track the number of naloxone units that are dispensed at your pharmacy in order to document the need for naloxone in your community. The NCHRC also asks the pharmacy to document the number of overdose rescues that occur with naloxone that was dispensed at the pharmacy. A simple and easy-to-use log for tracking naloxone units dispensed and reversals will be provided to each pharmacy that requests a standing order.*

**Q: Where can I obtain more brochures or handouts on overdose prevention to offer to people in addition to the naloxone?**

*A: The North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition has information on overdose prevention on its website. Click [here](#) to access brochures.*

**Q: How do I order naloxone?**

*A: Please refer to the tables below*

**Table 1. Intramuscular Naloxone Vendor Contacts <sup>1</sup>**

| <b>Vendor</b>      | <b>Item</b> | <b>Contact</b>                        |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Hospira USA/Pfizer | 0.4mg/ml    | Click <a href="#">here</a> to contact |

|                      |  |                |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
|                      | Container: Vial or carpject luer-lock syringe    | Hospira/Pfizer |
| IMS Health/Amphastar | 2 mg/ml<br>Container: Luer jet prefilled syringe | 800-423-4136   |

**Table 2. Auto-Injectors (Intramuscular) Vendor Contact**

| Vendor | Item   | Contact        |
|--------|--------|----------------|
| Kaleo  | Evzio® | 1-855-773-8946 |

**Table 3. Nasal Atomizer Vendor Contacts <sup>2</sup>**

| Vendor                       | Item No. | Contact      |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Professional Hospital Supply | 392322   | 707-429-2884 |
| Cardinal                     | MAD 300  | 800-964-5227 |
| Healthcare Logistics         | 17474    | 800-848-1633 |
| Amazon                       | MAD 300  | Amazon.com   |
| American Medical             | MAD 300  | 888-988-5350 |
| Teleflex                     | MAD 300  | 919-544-8000 |

**Table 4. Narcan® Vendor Contact**

| Vendor       | Item               | Contact  |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| Adapt Pharma | Narcan Nasal Spray | (844-462-7226) or <a href="mailto:customerservice@adaptpharma.com">customerservice@adaptpharma.com</a> |

**Table 5. Additional items needed for naloxone**

|            | Intranasal (IN)  |   | Intramuscular (IM)  |   |
|------------|--|---|---|---|
| Medication | Naloxone HCL solution 1 mg/mL<br>2 x 2 mL as pre-filled Luer-Lock syringes<br>•Dispense 2 (two) doses<br>•NDC #76329-3369-01 | Narcan Nasal <sup>®</sup> (nasal spray device):<br>4 mg/0.1 mL<br>• 1 x two-pack<br>• NDC # <b>69547-353-02 Adapt</b> | Naloxone HCl solution 0.4mg/mL<br>2 x 1mL single dose vials (SDV)<br>• Dispense 2 (two) SDV<br>• NDC #00409-1215-01 Hospira | Evzio <sup>®</sup> (auto-injector): 0.4 mg/mL<br>• 1 x two-pack<br>• NDC #60842-030-0 Kaleo |

|                           |   |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|
|                           | Amphastar   |  |  |  |
| <b>Required Device</b>    | 2 (two) x Intranasal Mucosal Atomizing Devices (MAD 300)<br>•Avail from: Teleflex (866-246-6990) or Safety Works, Inc. (800-723-3892) |  | 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. | Follow audio instructions from device. Place on thigh and inject 0.4 mL. Repeat after 3 minutes if no or minimal response. |

**Q: How do I educate a patient on the risks of overdose?**

*A: Pharmacists should provide information on the risks of overdose and the importance of calling 911 in the case of an opioid/opiate overdose. Please refer to the [NCHRC's Overdose Prevention webpage](#) for resources on overdose prevention and risk factors. Please be mindful that overdose is a highly stigmatized health occurrence and that sensitivity and respect are paramount to having a conversation on overdose risk and prevention.*

**Q: How do I educate a patient how to use naloxone?**

*A: Pharmacists should teach patients how to use and administer naloxone to an overdose victim. Please contact Hyun Namkoong at [hnamkoong88@gmail.com](mailto:hnamkoong88@gmail.com) or (919) 218-4505 for a training on how to use and administer naloxone or for resources on how to teach patients how to use naloxone.*

**Q: How much does naloxone cost? What about billing?**

*A: NC Medicaid, many Medicare Part D plans, and many private insurance companies cover the cost for naloxone. The co-pay varies depending on the patient's insurance coverage. Please note: The nasal atomizer device that is required for IMS Health/Amphastar intranasal naloxone is generally not covered and costs \$4-\$5 per atomizer.*

*For patients who cannot afford naloxone, please refer them to the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition for a free intramuscular naloxone kit. They can contact Hyun Namkoong directly at [hnamkoong88@gmail.com](mailto:hnamkoong88@gmail.com) or by text/call at (919) 218-4505.*

**Q: Can I switch products to the preferred insurance product for the patient without having to contact the prescriber?**

*A: Yes. The standing order that is provided by Dr. Logan Graddy and the NCHRC covers all four naloxone products therefore the prescriber does not have to be contacted in order to switch from one product to the other.*

<sup>1</sup> *Naloxoneinfo.org*

<sup>2</sup> *College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists*