State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services

JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: September 28, 2017

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 17-048

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS
                COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS
                COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION
                CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES
                COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS

SUBJECT: NALOXONE IN LICENSED ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG (AOD)
                RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS AND CERTIFIED AOD
                OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS

PURPOSE
This Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Information Notice provides guidance for the use of naloxone hydrochloride (Naloxone) within DHCS licensed AOD residential treatment programs and certified AOD outpatient treatment programs.

BACKGROUND
Naloxone is a life-saving medication that works to reverse an opioid overdose while having little to no effects on an individual if opioids are not present in their system. Naloxone blocks opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of the overdose. Naloxone is administered when a patient is showing signs of opioid overdose. The medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin), or intravenous injection.

In 2016, there were 1,925 opioid-related deaths in California and 3,935 opioid overdose emergency room visits. To combat this epidemic, Naloxone has been determined to be a beneficial resource for availability in licensed residential treatment programs and certified outpatient AOD treatment programs due to its life-saving properties and the nature of the needs of the clients in these programs.

POLICY
Effective immediately, licensed residential treatment programs and certified outpatient AOD treatment programs are permitted to utilize Naloxone at their program site. All forms of Naloxone are allowed at the program. If a program chooses to provide Naloxone, all forms of the medication shall be recorded, stored, and destroyed in the same manner as prescription medications. It is the responsibility of the program to develop policies, procedures, and protocols from how the program will store the medication, any documentation associated with the administration of it, and disposal.

The staff person who administers Naloxone must have a successful completion of a training prior to the administration of the Naloxone and the training shall be documented in their individual personnel file. The training must be a continuing education program or equivalent curriculum-based training program specific to Naloxone. The training shall at a minimum consist of, but not limited, to the following:

- Causes and prevention of Opioid overdose
- Mouth to mouth resuscitation
- How to administer an opioid antagonist
- How and when to contact emergency services for medical assistance

RESOURCES
Additional information regarding naloxone hydrochloride can be found on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website at:
https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment/naloxone.

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 9, Section 1799.02 Liability Limitation:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=1799.102.&lawCode=HSC

Training Resources:
http://prescribetoprevent.org/
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=1714.22.&lawCode=CIV

Board of Pharmacy:
http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/naloxone_info.shtml.
https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I4C836B00D2BC41A19D98378E0290CA5C?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact Anessa Reyes, Licensing and Certification Section at (916) 327-3074.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Karen Baylor, Ph.D., LMFT, Deputy Director
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services