



JENNIFER KENT
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: March 5, 2019

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 19-009

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.
CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
CALIFORNIA OPIOID MAINTENANCE PROVIDERS
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
CALIFORNIA CONSORTIUM OF ADDICTION PROGRAMS AND PROFESSIONALS

SUPERSEDES: [MHSUDS Information Notice No. 17-048](#)

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 2017, there were 2,196 opioid overdose deaths in California and 4,281 opioid overdose emergency room visits¹. 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 for how the program will store the medication, and accurately document the administration and disposal of Naloxone. The staff person who administers Naloxone must have successfully completed Naloxone administration training and the training must be documented in their individual personnel file.

RESOURCES

Additional information regarding Naloxone 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

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=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I4C836B00D2BC41A19D98378E0290CA5C?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

¹ California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard – California Quick Stats 2017 available at <https://discovery.cdph.ca.gov/CDIC/ODdash/>

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Training Resources:

<https://prescribetoprevent.org/>

Naloxone Training Video - How to use Naloxone nasal spray:

<https://vimeo.com/151191919>

If you have questions about this Information Notice, please contact the Officer of the Day at (916)322-2911.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brenda Grealish, Acting Deputy Director
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services