

## **New Mexico Statewide Standing Order for Registered Pharmacist Naloxone or other FDA approved opioid antagonist for rescue use**

**Authority:** NMSA 24-23-1.F: A licensed prescriber may directly or by standing order prescribe, dispense, or distribute an opioid antagonist to: 1) a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose; 2) a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose; 3) an employee, volunteer or representative of a community-based entity providing overdose prevention and education services that is registered with the department; 4) a first responder.

### **Section A: Purpose:**

Opioid overdose death is preventable through administering, dispensing, and prescribing naloxone to people who are at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose. As trusted and accessible health care professionals, pharmacists are in a unique position to educate individuals on opioid overdose and dispense naloxone when indicated.

This standing order authorizes registered pharmacists in New Mexico to dispense naloxone or other FDA approved opioid antagonist for rescue use to:

1. Any person who uses an opioid, regardless of how the opioid is used or obtained.
2. Any person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose.

### **Section B: Order and Dispensing Procedures**

#### **1. Assessment and Eligibility Criteria**

Indication: Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of opioids, including respiratory and central nervous system depression. It is indicated for emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. It is not a substitute for emergency medical care. Other FDA approved opioid antagonist(s) for rescue use will be authorized under this standing order, when available.

Eligibility:

1. People who voluntarily request naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) and meet criteria as described in Section A are eligible to receive naloxone (or other opioid antagonist).
2. Pharmacists, using their professional judgment, may offer naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) to individuals identified to be at increased risk of experiencing an opioid overdose. Factors to consider that may increase risk of overdose: High dose of opioids, using opioids for more than 3 months, using opioids and benzodiazepines simultaneously, being treated for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine, methadone, or naltrexone, history of opioid overdose.

Contraindications: Known hypersensitivity to naloxone (or other opioid antagonist, as applicable).

Anaphylactic shock may occur in those allergic to naloxone or any of its components.

Contraindication(s) to other FDA approved opioid antagonist(s), if any, based on manufacturer's drug information (approved product labeling) must be observed by pharmacist in determination of whether the product is appropriate.

Warnings/Precautions: Naloxone and other opioid antagonists may cause opioid withdrawal symptoms such as: nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, chills, sweating, anxiety, and combativeness/disorientation.

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Naloxone and other opioid antagonists are not effective in reducing respiratory and central nervous system depression caused by non-opioid substances.

## 2. Order to Dispense

### Product Selection and Labeling

The pharmacist may dispense one of the following products based on product availability and preference.
<p><b>Naloxone HCl Solution 1 mg/mL prefilled Luer-Lock Syringe</b>            Dispense: 2 x 2 mL syringes (4 mL total) with two nasal mucosal atomization devices.            Directions for use: Spray 1 mL (one-half of syringe) in each nostril. Repeat after 3 minutes if no response. Call 911.  <b>Note: DO NOT dispense naloxone product available with a fixed needle (NDC 76329-1469-01). The needle is fixed on the syringe barrel and the individual will not be able to attach the nasal mucosal atomization device.</b></p>
<p><b>Narcan® Nasal Spray (naloxone HCl) 4 mg/0.1 mL Nasal Spray</b>            Dispense: 1 box containing two 4 mg/0.1 mL doses of naloxone            Directions for use: Administer a single spray of Narcan® in one nostril. Repeat after 3 minutes if no response. Call 911.</p>
Any <b>other naloxone preparation or opioid antagonist</b> commercially available and FDA approved for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. Label with directions for use consistent with drug monograph. Call 911.

**Prescription Label Requirements:** Name of recipient/person requesting naloxone (or other opioid antagonist), date dispensed, naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) product and quantity, licensed prescriber name: *Chris Novak, MD*, directions for use, refills: PRN.

## 3. Opioid Overdose and Naloxone (or Other Opioid Antagonist) Administration Education

Required Counseling and Educational Information: Pharmacists dispensing under this standing order must provide individuals receiving naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) with opioid overdose and naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) administration education. The pharmacist should be familiar with opioid overdose prevention, using opioid medications safely, and naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) administration instructions.

Education must, at a minimum, include:

Opioids and what causes opioid overdose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most opioids are narcotic pain relievers such as: oxycodone, hydrocodone, oxymorphone, hydromorphone, codeine, morphine, fentanyl, methadone, and buprenorphine. Heroin is also an opioid drug.</li> <li>Opioids can have severe adverse reactions that slow or stop breathing. This can happen when a person ingests too much of the opioid medication or mixes an opioid medication with another substance. Opioid overdoses can be fatal because they slow or stop breathing.</li> </ul>
Factors that increase risk for overdose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixing opioids with alcohol, benzodiazepines, or other drugs.</li> <li>Taking opioids more often or in higher quantities than prescribed.</li> <li>Restarting opioids after a period of abstinence.</li> </ul>
Naloxone (or other opioid antagonist, if	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naloxone is a safe medication that reverses and blocks the effects of opioids and can be used to treat a known or suspected opioid overdose.</li> </ul>

dispensed) overview:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) only reverses the effects of opioids. It will not have an effect on an overdose caused by another substance (e.g., alcohol, benzodiazepines, stimulants, etc.).</li> <li>• Naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) may cause opioid withdrawal symptoms such as: nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, chills, sweating, anxiety, and combativeness/disorientation. People who use opioids chronically are more likely to experience these effects.</li> <li>• Naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) will not have an effect on a person who has not taken opioids.</li> </ul>
How to recognize an opioid overdose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person is unresponsive or unconscious; will not wake up even when shaken.</li> <li>• Person is not breathing or breathing is very slow and shallow.</li> <li>• Person's lips or fingernails are blue/grey and skin is pale and clammy.</li> </ul>
What to do in case of an overdose:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Call 911 as soon as possible and follow dispatcher instructions.</b> Naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) is not a substitute for emergency medical services.</li> <li>2. Follow dispatcher instructions for rescue breathing, if appropriate.</li> <li>3. Administer naloxone. If no response in 3 minutes, give a second dose.</li> <li>4. Once revived, place person in recovery position and stay until help arrives.</li> <li>5. If an opioid antagonist other than naloxone is dispensed, information required in items 1. through 4. above should be provided, and tailored to the dispensed antagonist.</li> </ol>
How to administer naloxone (or other opioid antagonist dispensed):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to attached educational handout in Section C: <a href="#">User Guide - Information on Opioid Safety and How to Use Naloxone</a></li> <li>• Pharmacist should review naloxone (or dispensed opioid antagonist) administration instructions for the product being dispensed.</li> </ul>

Refer to the attached educational handout in Section C of this documents as a guide to educate and counsel individuals receiving naloxone. Review with each individual and provide a written copy with the naloxone product being dispensed.

Pharmacists dispensing naloxone or other opioid antagonist under this standing order must comply with dispensing procedures and associated opioid overdose and naloxone (or other opioid antagonist) education as detailed in this section.

Licensed Prescriber:

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NPI: 1508834110 License#: MD2009-0030

Date: 01/11/2022

Christopher Novak, MD, MPH  
New Mexico Department of Health

### **Section C: Additional Information and Attached Documents**

Educational handout: Review with each individual and provide a written copy with the naloxone product being dispensed.

[\*User Guide - Information on Opioid Safety and How to Use Naloxone\*](#)

Helpful information and resources for pharmacists dispensing naloxone under this standing order.

[\*Pharmacist Naloxone Dispensing Guide\*](#)

Overdose Prevention and Rescue Breathing in 20 minutes or less

<https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/help/1706/>