



Community Behavioral Health (CBH): Provider Notification Naloxone Dispensation May 23, 2019

Background

The U. S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on Naloxone and Opioid Overdose emphasizes that Naloxone is a life-saving medication that should be widely available to people suffering from, treating, and living with individuals with opioid use disorder. Research shows that increasing availability and education on the use of Naloxone reduces overdose deaths in communities.¹

Multiple factors continue to limit access to Naloxone, including stigma, low awareness of the standing order, and pharmacies not adequately stocking the medication. Recent Philadelphia City Council legislation has attempted to address some of these barriers.² Governor Wolf’s emergency declaration in January 2018 amended legislation to permit and encourage greater collaboration between pharmacies, treatment providers, and jails.³

A 2017 Philadelphia pilot demonstrated that dispensing Naloxone directly to members from an ambulatory narcotic treatment program (known as “point of care” dispensing) improved access to naloxone and led to high rates of rescue use by recipients.⁴

Best Practice Guidelines

All CBH direct service providers should implement, as a best practice:

- 1. Screening for risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose**
- 2. Point of care dispensing of Naloxone for those who report increased risk**

This best practice is an enhancement of the continued requirements of [DBHIDS Bulletin 16-04, On-site Maintenance, Administration, and Prescription of NALOXONE](#) for all licensed CBH contracted providers.⁵ As a resource, free online Naloxone training is available at [Get Naloxone Now](#).

¹ Walley AY, Xuan Z, Hackman HH, et al. Opioid overdose rates and implementation of overdose education and nasal naloxone distribution in Massachusetts: interrupted time series analysis. *BMJ (Clinical research ed.)*. 2013;346:f174.

² Philadelphia City Council Bill 180695: *Amending Title 9, “Regulation of Businesses, Trades and Professions,” of The Philadelphia Code to add a new Section 9-637, entitled “Opioid Antidote Availability,” to require pharmacies to stock opioid antidotes and display signs giving notice of opioid antidote availability to customers, all under certain terms and conditions.* [Link](#).

³ 49 Pa Code § 27. [Link](#).

⁴ Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

⁵ DBHIDS Bulletin 16-04, *On-site Maintenance, Administration, and Prescription of NALOXONE*, available at [CBHphilly.org](#).

The following guidance and template documents are available to assist with implementation and can be found below this notification on the CBH website:⁶

- Sample workflow
- Member/Pharmacy Release Form
- Naloxone Registration/Tracking form

For pharmacy related inquiries or to request assistance in building partnerships with neighborhood pharmacies, please contact CBH.Pharmacyinitiatives@phila.gov.

Sample workflow:

Providers are encouraged to develop partnerships with pharmacies to be able to obtain and directly dispense Naloxone onsite. A sample protocol derived from the 2017 Philadelphia pilot is as follows:

1. The provider discusses Naloxone with the individual.
2. If the individual is interested and signs the necessary consents (sample available), the prescriber at the provider agency writes a prescription for the medication and faxes it to the partner pharmacy, along with the individual's physical health and pharmacy benefits insurance information.
 - The consent form signed by the individual authorizes:
 - The prescription to be filled by the pharmacy
 - The provider to receive and store the individual's Naloxone until it is given to the individual
3. The pharmacy processes the prescription, bills the insurer, and delivers medication to the provider for direct distribution to the individual.

⁶ <https://cbhphilly.org/cbh-providers/oversight-and-monitoring/cbh-provider-manual/provider-notices/>