

Naloxone Availability Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions

March 2019

NALOXONE STOCKING

How much naloxone do I need to stock?

All retail pharmacies in Philadelphia must maintain a stock sufficient to fill at least two requests for naloxone. For example, 2 boxes of nasal Narcan (each with 2 doses) would meet this requirement.

The requirement applies regardless of whether naloxone is requested with an individual prescription or without a prescription under Pennsylvania's standing order.

What formulations am I required to stock?

The following formulations would be meet the law's requirements.

Intranasal:

- Luer-lock syringes and mucosal atomization devices (MAD)
 - 2 mL luer-lock syringes prefilled with naloxone (dispense two per order)
 - Patient information pamphlet containing dosage and administration instructions.
- NARCAN nasal spray
 - Carton containing two blister packages each with single 4 mg dose of naloxone in a 0.1 mL intranasal spray
 - Package insert containing dosage and administration instructions

Intramuscular:

- EVZIO (naloxone hydrochloride injection, USP)
 - 0.4 mg auto-injectors or two 2.0 mg auto-injectors (dispense two per order)
 - A single Trainer for EVZIO
 - Patient instructions
- Generic intramuscular formulation
 - Two single-use 1ml vials PLUS two 3ml syringe with 23-25 gauge 1-1.5 inch IM needles (dispense two per order)

My pharmacy usually stocks it, but I dispensed our last kits. I have ordered more, but they have not yet arrived. Is that a violation?

No. If it has been less than 7 days since you last had at least two kits of naloxone in stock and your records show that you have ordered more, this does not constitute a violation.

SIGNAGE

What does this law require?

The law requires that all retail pharmacies display a sign indicating that naloxone is available. The sign is issued by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

How large is the sign?

The sign is 8.5 x 11”.

Where must the sign be posted?

The sign must be posted in a location that is visible from the point(s) where a pharmacist dispenses medications to customers.

Where can I get more copies of the sign?

The sign can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/NaloxoneSign>.

Can I use my own sign?

If a retail pharmacy is interested in posting their own sign with equivalent information, they may do so, but only after first obtaining approval from the Department of Public Health. Proposed signs must be submitted to the Department via email (dph.opioid@phila.gov).

ENFORCEMENT

How will this law be enforced?

The Department of Public Health will periodically call and visit pharmacies to ensure they are stocking naloxone and in compliance with the law. Additionally, the Department will follow-up on consumer complaints we receive about the inability to purchase naloxone.

What is the penalty for not complying with this law?

Each violation of the law is \$250.

BILLING & DISPENSING

Who is eligible for naloxone?

Anyone. Under Pennsylvania Act 139 of 2014 (Act 139), health care professionals otherwise authorized to prescribe naloxone are permitted to prescribe it via standing order to eligible persons, which includes patients at-risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid-related overdose.

Can I bill insurance for naloxone?

Yes. The dispensing of naloxone formulations in accordance with the standing order regulations allows pharmacists to bill Medicaid, State funded insurance plans, and private insurance plans. Most formulations of naloxone are covered by third party plans.

For more information and resources about dispensing naloxone at your pharmacy from the PA Pharmacists Association, please visit <http://www.PApharmacists.com/page/Naloxone>.