

**Provider Bulletin #16-04**  
**Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities Services**  
**Community Behavioral Health**  
**Behavioral Health Special Initiative**  
**On-site Maintenance, Administration and Prescription of NALOXONE**  
**August 15, 2016**

**Background**

Almost 2,500 Pennsylvania residents died from an opioid related overdose in 2014. Naloxone is a FDA approved opioid antagonist that temporarily stops or reverses the effects of an opioid overdose and restores breathing within two (2) to eight (8) minutes. The naloxone effect lasts from 20 to 90 minutes. Two of the most common ways that naloxone is administered are intranasally (nasal spray) and the auto-injector.

Individuals who use opioids, family members, and friends can access naloxone by obtaining a prescription from their family doctor or by using the standing order (a prescription written for the general public, rather than specifically for an individual) issued by Rachel Levine, M.D., PA Physician General. On October 28, 2015 Dr. Levine issued the standing order for injectable naloxone which is kept on file at some pharmacies. It can also be downloaded from the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs website:

[http://www.ddap.pa.gov/overdose/Pages/Naloxone\\_FAQ.aspx](http://www.ddap.pa.gov/overdose/Pages/Naloxone_FAQ.aspx).

At that website you will also find a list of pharmacies that stock naloxone, guidance toolkits for first responders, family, and friends, information on frequently asked questions about naloxone, and other resources. Training in the administration of naloxone is free and is available in-person and on-line.\*

In September, 2014, Act 139 (the Good Samaritan Act) became a law that allows first responders, individuals at risk of an overdose, family, and friends to obtain a prescription for naloxone. This law also protects those who prescribe or administer naloxone from criminal, civil, or professional liability prosecution. Moreover, Act 139 protects those who report an overdose from prosecution for drug possession and those who have overdosed as well.

**Purpose**

In light of the opioid epidemic, it is the intent of the DBHIDS to provide persons receiving any level of behavioral health treatment services in Philadelphia with immediate access to emergency treatment for an opioid overdose and access to appropriate medical and behavioral health treatment. This bulletin will increase the likelihood that persons who overdose on opioids will survive and have an opportunity for sustained recovery.

**Policy Related to On-site Maintenance, Administration and Prescription of Naloxone**

Effective **October 1, 2016** all levels of licensed and CBH and BHSI contracted behavioral health service providers will:

1. Maintain naloxone kits on-site in all of their programs at all times;
2. Ensure that there are staff present on all shifts who are trained to administer naloxone to individuals known to be or are suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose;

3. Follow established provider policy emergency procedures to immediately administer NARCAN as indicated and ensure immediate emergency medical attention following administration;
4. Modify clients' treatment to incorporate or enhance substance use disorder treatment and address any other safety concerns, including but not limited to changes in prescribed medications such as other controlled substances, treatment plan revisions, and/or enhanced coordination with addiction treatment providers;
5. Offer prescription naloxone to all clients for their personal use through a written prescription by a program physician or the standing order;
6. Develop a plan to educate and train clients on the availability and use of naloxone;
7. Establish a written policy with accompanying procedures enabling staff to identify persons in need of and to promptly administer naloxone as indicated;
8. Establish a written policy with accompanying procedures regarding the acquisition, storage, monitoring, administration, and safe disposal of used and expired naloxone;
9. Provide NIAC (CBH) and BHSI with a copy of their written policy and procedures related to 1-8 by **October 1, 2016**. Once accepted, program adherence will be monitored through NIAC.

**Resources:**

\* Free *in-person* NARCAN administration training is available at Prevention Point Philadelphia.

\* Free *on-line* training in NARCAN/Naloxone administration can be obtained via the following websites:

[www.getnaloxonenow.org](http://www.getnaloxonenow.org)

<https://www.pavtn.net/act-139-training>

<http://prescribetoprevent.org/patient-education/videos/>

SAMHSA recently released an updated version of the Opioid Overdose Toolkit. The goal of the toolkit is to prevent opioid overdose by educating first responders, physicians, clients, and family and community members. It is available via:

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Opioid-Overdose-Prevention-Toolkit-Updated-2016/SMA164742>

Additional website to find a pharmacy that stocks naloxone:

<http://www.overdosefreepa.pitt.edu/find-naloxone/>

CBH Naloxone FAQ:

<http://dbhids.org/wp-content/uploads/1970/01/Naloxone-FAQ.pdf>

Questions regarding this bulletin can be directed to Natalie Charney at [Natalie.charney@phila.gov](mailto:Natalie.charney@phila.gov) or 267-602-2306.