

Naloxone Standing Order FAQ Pharmacists Guide



Georgia Pharmacy
FOUNDATION

Under Georgia Code Sections 31-1-10(b)(2) and 26-4-116.2, pharmacists licensed by the Georgia Board of Pharmacy can dispense naloxone without a patient-specific prescription to persons or entities pursuant to a Standing Order for Naloxone, signed by the State Health Director.

Where can I get a copy of the Standing Order for Naloxone?

The statewide standing order is available on the Georgia Department of Public Health website <https://dph.georgia.gov/naloxone>.

Am I required to report my pharmacy's participation in the statewide Standing Order?

Pharmacies dispensing naloxone under the statewide standing order are not required to notify the Georgia Department Public Health. A copy of the Standing Order for Naloxone must be maintained in the pharmacy.

Am I required to notify the patient's prescriber that I dispensed Naloxone?

Pharmacies dispensing Naloxone under the Standing Order are not required to notify the patients primary care or pain management prescriber.

Can I initiate a conversation with a patient about Naloxone or does the patient have to ask for it?

Yes, pharmacy staff can initiate conversations about naloxone. Current prescriptions, prescription records, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program reports, insurance claim notes, and pharmacist's evaluation of opioid risk may prompt a conversation about naloxone.

Who is eligible for Naloxone through the Standing Order?

The Standing Order for Naloxone indicates that the it "may be used by eligible persons or entities" as a prescription to obtain naloxone from a licensed pharmacy. Eligible persons or entities may include:

- Opioid users
- Their family members or friends
- First responders
- Schools
- Clinics
- Harm reduction organizations
- Any individual or organization

(continued)

How do I process a prescription for Naloxone under the Standing Order?

Treat the Standing Order for Naloxone as you would any other prescription. Record keeping, documentation, and labeling requirements remain the same as other prescriptions, but you will select the State Health Officer (listed on the Standing Order) as the prescriber.

Can I bill insurance?

Yes, you may bill insurance the same way as for any medication dispensed to an individual for their use.

How do I start a conversation with my patients about Naloxone?

The American Pharmacists Association has an excellent resource on how to initiate a conversation about naloxone in a way that decreases stigma. It can be found at: www.pharmacist.com/lets-talk-about-naloxone.

What type of patient education is required under the Standing Order?

Patients receiving Naloxone under the Standing Order should receive education regarding:

- Risk factors of overdose
- Signs and symptoms of overdose
- How to respond to an overdose
- Administration of naloxone

Can I be held liable for dispensing Naloxone under the Standing Order?

No. Under Georgia Code Sections 26-4-116.2 provides immunity from any civil liability, criminal responsibility, or professional licensing sanctions for pharmacists acting in good faith and in compliance with applicable standards of care.

Does the statewide Standing Order expire?

No. The Standing Order for Naloxone will remain in effect until rescinded or updated upon a change in the State Health Officer or if any relevant information regarding Naloxone becomes available.

Does dispensing Naloxone enable drug use in my community?

No! Several studies have found that communities with naloxone distribution programs have shown no evidence of increased drug use.

Where can I find additional resources for counseling a patient on naloxone?

The Georgia Pharmacy Foundation features links to training, tips and resources for naloxone at gpha.org/champion.

The Georgia Department of Public Health features links to training at dph.georgia.gov/approved-training



Georgia Pharmacy Foundation

PHARMACISTS FIGHTING THE OPIOID CRISIS ONE PATIENT AT A TIME.

<http://www.gpha.org/foundation/opioidsafety>