

Naloxone Statewide Standing Order Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is naloxone?

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that works almost immediately to reverse opiate overdose. Naloxone is a prescription drug, but it is not a controlled substance. Naloxone has few known adverse effects, no potential for abuse, and can be rapidly administered through intramuscular injection or nasal spray.

2. What is the purpose of the statewide naloxone standing order?

The standing order was issued by the state Public Health Officer (authorized by California Civil Code Section 1714.22) to: 1) allow community organizations and other entities in California (see response to questions #4 for examples) that are not currently working with a physician, to distribute naloxone to a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist; and 2) allow for the administration of naloxone by a family member, friend, or other person to a person experiencing or reasonably suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose.

3. Why is a statewide naloxone standing order needed?

Many community organizations and entities in California are in a position to help reduce deaths associated with opioid overdose by distributing naloxone, but may find it difficult to obtain the required standing order from a physician. The statewide naloxone standing order was issued to address this need.

4. Who is eligible to use the statewide standing order?

Any community organization or entity in California that can provide naloxone to those at risk of overdose and those in a position to intervene during an opioid-related overdose. Examples of eligible community organizations and entities include public health departments, harm reduction/syringe exchange programs, substance use disorder treatment providers, homeless programs, jails, emergency services providers, law enforcement, and others.

5. How can community organizations and entities in California apply to use the statewide standing order?

To apply for the statewide standing order, complete the [on-line application](#) on the California Department of Public Health's website. In addition to the application, the webpage provides more information, application instructions, and the terms and conditions for using the statewide standing order.

6. Can California pharmacists use the statewide standing order to distribute naloxone?

California pharmacists do not need to use the standing order. Pharmacists can dispense naloxone without a prescription from a health care provider as authorized and in compliance with Business and Profession Code Section 4052.01.

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7. Is training required to distribute naloxone?

Yes, staff of community organizations and other entities distributing naloxone under the statewide standing order are required to receive opioid overdose prevention and treatment training, and are also required to train individuals who receive naloxone from them. Minimum training requirements and an example of a training are included in the application information page. For additional training resources, please visit the California Department of Public Health's [Naloxone Grant Program](#).

8. Can the statewide standing order be used to purchase or sell naloxone?

No, the standing order was issued to allow community organizations and other entities that are in possession of naloxone to distribute it, and to allow individuals that receive naloxone to administer it.

9. Do individuals and family members need to apply to use the statewide standing order to obtain naloxone and have it covered under insurance benefits?

No, individuals and family members can obtain naloxone by: 1) obtaining a prescription for naloxone from their health care provider and having it filled at a pharmacy; or 2) purchasing naloxone from a pharmacist without a prescription from a health care provider (authorized by Business and Professions Code Section 4052.01). A pharmacist can determine if naloxone is covered by an individual's health care insurance, and can bill for this cost as appropriate.

10. How else can an individual person obtain naloxone?

Some community organizations and other entities (see examples listed in response to question #4) may offer naloxone at low or no cost.

11. How much does naloxone cost?

The price of naloxone varies depending on the type – injectable, auto injector, or nasal spray.

12. Have other states issued statewide naloxone standing orders?

Yes. Other state such as New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina have issued similar standing orders.

13. Can naloxone be used for a fentanyl overdose?

Yes, fentanyl is an opioid and naloxone can be used to reverse a fentanyl overdose.

Please submit additional questions to naloxonestandingorder@cdph.ca.gov.