



Pharmacist Naloxone FAQ

What is a standing order and how does it work?

In May 2015 Dr. Hacker, Allegheny County Health Department Director, issued a standing order for Intra-nasal Naloxone or Naloxone Auto-injector to any Pharmacy in Allegheny County wishing to participate. A standing order functions just like a prescription, the patient is the customer requesting Naloxone at the counter and the physician is Dr. Hacker. Pharmacy record keeping and insurance billing are completed like any other prescription, adhering to all of the rules and regulations that govern the practice of pharmacy.

How does a pharmacy participate in the standing order?

A copy of the standing order may be obtained by emailing the Health Department pharmacist at ncaracciolo@achd.net. The standing order strongly encourages the pharmacists to be trained on the proper use of both of the dosage forms and be able to competently counsel the customer. Once the standing order is signed by the pharmacy manager and a copy is sent to the Health Department, the pharmacy may begin dispensing Naloxone to any customer requesting the medication.

Does the standing order prescription apply to non-Allegheny county residents as well?

The standing order is only for Allegheny County pharmacies and can be utilized for anyone asking for Naloxone regardless of residence.

Are there any counseling requirements?

*The Health Department strongly encourages all pharmacy staff members to be knowledgeable about the standing order. It is also strongly encouraged that the pharmacist takes adequate time in counseling the customer on the proper use of the medication and calling 911. It is required that every prescription dispensed under the standing order includes a copy of this downloadable brochure: Informative Pamphlet: **Opioid safety and how to use naloxone**  (http://www.achd.net/biostats/pubs/pdf/001-PH-0515_Naloxone_Pamphlet.pdf).*

Are there any other requirements by the Allegheny County Health Department?

The Health Department will be contacting your pharmacy on a monthly basis to determine how many times the standing order has been utilized. This is the only information the Health Department will be collecting. All of the rules and regulations governing the practice of pharmacy must always be adhered to.

Can the insurance of the customer purchasing the Naloxone be billed even if they are not the end user?

Yes, the purchaser of the Naloxone is the patient on the standing order prescription and their insurance may be billed.

Are insurance carriers covering Naloxone under this standing order?

Most insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare cover the cost of the Naloxone but this may vary by plan. The nasal atomizer is not covered and may be purchased through a cash sale rather than billing it through insurance and having payment denied. It is always best to check on insurance coverage before proceeding with the sale.

Are there any other ways to obtain the medication if cost is an issue?

There are options for those where cost is an issue. The Allegheny County Health Department Immunization Clinic offers Intra-nasal naloxone kits for sale at cost; customers may call 412-578-8081 for current pricing. Prevention Point Pittsburgh also offers Naloxone kits (IM only) at no cost; they may be reached at 412-247-3404.

What other resources are available?

There are many resources available on the Health Department website, <http://www.achd.net/overdoseprevention/>. These include: Partners in Prevention, Pharmacies and Naloxone Access, Related Links, Downloadable Material, and Surveillance and Overdose Data.