



INTRODUCTION

In 2016, 827 people in Wisconsin died from **opioid** overdoses, more than the number killed in car crashes. Opioids are powerful natural, and man-made drugs. Opioids include heroin, oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine, codeine, and fentanyl. Many of these drugs are used as pain relievers, but they can also be addictive. They can be deadly if taken in high doses, taken in combination with other drugs, or given to someone with certain pre-existing medical conditions. As stated in [Executive Order 214, Public Health Advisory](#), the misuse and abuse of opioids is a public health crisis.

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. It can be given as an injection or as a nasal spray. Naloxone is often sold under the brand name Narcan. Information regarding the use of naloxone is available on the Department of Health Services (DHS) [“Opioids – Overdose”](#) webpage.

A [statewide standing order](#) was signed by Dr. Jonathan Meiman for naloxone for pharmacies that are interested in dispensing naloxone. The standing order allows pharmacists in Wisconsin to provide naloxone without a direct prescription to individuals at risk of an opioid overdose, as well as their family and friends and anyone who may witness an opioid overdose.

Naloxone does not reverse overdoses caused by non-opioid drugs. It will not cause harm if it is administered to someone who is not experiencing an overdose due to opioids. It cannot be abused and is not addictive.

GUIDANCE

This document provides guidance for the storage and administration of nasal spray naloxone in a community-based residential facility (CBRF) licensed under Wis. Stat. ch. 50 and [Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 83](#).

1. **May a CBRF store and administer nasal spray naloxone that is not dispensed by a pharmacist to a specific resident?**

Yes, a CBRF is permitted to store and administer nasal spray naloxone that is not dispensed to a specific resident. *Note: No waiver or variance is needed to allow the storage and administration of nasal spray naloxone to individuals in need.*

2. **Who is permitted to administer naloxone in a CBRF?**

CBRF resident care staff, who have received training using DHS-approved educational materials, are permitted to administer nasal spray naloxone. These materials are available on the DHS [“Opioids – Standing Order for Naloxone”](#) webpage. Scroll down to “Information About Naloxone” and select the “Prescriber and Patient Education Materials” menu. *Note: No waiver or variance is needed to allow the administration of nasal spray naloxone by resident care staff.*

A registered nurse can administer an injectable form of naloxone and a nasal form of naloxone. A registered nurse may also delegate injections to staff who have successfully completed the DHS-approved [CBRF medication administration and management training](#) and have received additional training approved by the delegating registered nurse.

3. Where can I find information about how to identify and respond to an opioid overdose?

The DHS [“Opioids – Overdose”](#) webpage provides information regarding the identification and response to an opioid overdose with the following six steps.

1. Identify an overdose.
2. Call 911.
3. Open airway and give rescue breaths.
4. Give naloxone.
5. Place individual in recovery position.
6. Stay until help arrives.

RECOMMENDED FACILITY POLICIES REGARDING OPIOIDS AND USE OF NALOXONE

- Standing Order by MD
- Emergency Response
- Naloxone Administration
- Staff Training
- Documentation

HELPFUL LINKS

- Executive Order 228, Relating to the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Co-Chairs of the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse
https://walker.wi.gov/sites/default/files/executive-orders/Executive_Order_228.pdf
- Wis. Admin. Code ch. Med 17: Standards for Dispensing and Prescribing Drugs
https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/med/17
- DHS webpage “Opioid Resources for Providers,” including “Information for Prescribers” and “Information for Dispensers”
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/providers.htm>