



**Department of Behavioral Health
INFORMATION NOTICE 18-08**

Date December 7, 2018

To All Department of Behavioral Health Mental Health Staff

From Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW, Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Veronica Kelley", is written over the "From" line.

Subject Standing Order Requirement for Administering Intranasal Naloxone Hydrochloride (NARCAN® Nasal Spray)

Introduction The purpose of this Information Notice (IN) is to communicate the intranasal naloxone hydrochloride (intranasal naloxone) administering requirement for Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Opioid Overdose Responders, and provide guidance on how to meet this requirement set forth by California Civil Code § 1714.22.

Background DBH is responsible for ensuring the immediate treatment of opioid overdose, including but not limited to, designating an Overdose Prevention Educator as described in the Standing Order to Dispense Intranasal Naloxone Hydrochloride (Naloxone Standing Order). The Naloxone Standing Order was issued by the California Department of Public Health to allow for the administration of intranasal naloxone by Opioid Overdose Responders to clients experiencing or reasonably suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose.

NARCAN® Nasal Spray is currently the only U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved nasal form of naloxone for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose.

The Naloxone Standing Order is implemented to prevent delays in access to intranasal naloxone during an emergency.

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Requirements

In accordance with the Naloxone Standing Order requirements, DBH is authorized to:

- Maintain supplies of intranasal naloxone kits for the purposes of administration by Opioid Overdose Responders to clients during an opioid-related overdose.
- Possess and allow access to intranasal naloxone to Opioid Overdose Responders who have completed the overdose training and required documentation.
- Possess and administer intranasal naloxone to clients experiencing an opioid overdose.

Required Designation of DBH Overdose Prevention Educator

Dr. Jonathan D. Avalos, Addiction Medicine Physician, is the DBH Overdose Prevention Educator ensuring the required documentation of educational program regarding overdose prevention and response is complete.

The DBH Medical Director shall maintain documentation regarding physician-issued standing order for the administration of intranasal naloxone during an opioid-related overdose by trained Department staff.

Required Overdose Training

DBH staff shall complete Overdose Prevention and Response training in DBH's [Relias Learning](#) in order to become Opioid Overdose Responders. Staff must meet criteria listed below:

- Have frequent contact with opioid users.
- Risk(s) for overdose or likelihood of contact with a client at risk.
- Understand and willing to learn the essential components of Overdose Prevention and Response and intranasal naloxone administration.

The educational program consists of the below areas:

- Overdose prevention techniques
- Recognizing signs and symptoms of overdose
- Calling 911
- Rescue breathing and/or chest compressions
- Naloxone® Nasal Spray storage, carrying, and administration
- Post-overdose follow-up and care

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**Intranasal
Naloxone
Storage**

Upon completion of the educational component, intranasal naloxone will be dispensed to DBH Clinics for storage in designated overdose emergency cabinets - accessible ONLY to Opioid Overdose Responders trained to treat clients experiencing an opioid overdose.

NARCAN must be stored at proper room temperatures of 59-77 degrees Fahrenheit (2-8 degrees Celsius).

Reference(s)

- California Civil Code, Section 1714.22
- California Department of Public Health, Naloxone Statewide Standing Order Frequently Asked Questions
- NARCAN® Nasal Spray website: <https://www.narcan.com/>
- Standing Order to Dispense Naloxone Hydrochloride

Related Policy

DBH Standard Practice Manual:

- Control, Access and Accountability of Medications and Medical Supplies Policy (MDS2008)

Questions

Questions regarding this IN shall be directed to DBH Medical Services:
DBHMedicalServices@dbh.sbcounty.gov.

San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health
STANDING ORDER TO DISPENSE NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE

Naloxone is indicated for treatment of opioid overdose. It may be delivered intranasally or intramuscularly. This standing order is current as of 11/02/2018 and issued in accordance with Section 1714.22 of the California Civil Code.*

1. This standing order authorizes San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, to maintain supplies of naloxone kits for the purposes of distributing them in the community those at risk of an overdose or other potential bystanders.
2. This standing order authorizes San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health to possess and distribute naloxone to Opioid Overdose Responders who have completed an overdose training and required documentation.
3. This standing order authorizes Opioid Overdose Responders, trained by San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health to possess and administer naloxone to a person who is experiencing an opioid overdose.

Naloxone Dosage and Administration:

San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health will train opioid users and their contacts and/or staff that may contact them in the use of naloxone for the reversal of opioid overdose.

Program participants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Current opioid users, individuals with a history of opioid use, or someone with frequent contact with opioid users;
- Risk for overdose or likelihood of contact with someone at risk, by report or history;
- Able to understand and willing to learn the essential components of Overdose Prevention and Response and naloxone administration.

An Overdose Prevention Educator from **San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health** will complete the required documentation with an eligible participant and engage the participant in a brief (5-10 minutes) educational program about overdose prevention and response.

The educational program components will include:

- Overdose prevention techniques
- Recognizing signs and symptoms of overdose
- Calling 911
- Rescue breathing and/or chest compressions
- Naloxone storage, carrying, and administration
- Post-overdose follow-up and care


Upon completion of the educational component, naloxone will be dispensed to trained program participants who will carry and use naloxone to treat individuals experiencing an opioid overdose.

Order to dispense:

Upon completion of an Overdose Prevention Training, dispense at minimum:

Two NARCAN® (naloxone HCl) 4mg/.1ml Nasal Spray

Refills: To be provided to previously trained participants as needed. When individuals return for a refill, a short report will be taken and training refresher will be offered.

 A139612	11/02/2018
Physician's Signature and License No.	Date
Jonathan D Avalos MD	11/02/2019
Physician's Name (Print)	Order Expiration Date

****Section 1714.22 of the CA Civil Code:***

(c) (1) A licensed health care provider who is authorized by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist may issue standing orders for the distribution of an opioid antagonist to a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose.

(d) (1) A person who is prescribed or possesses an opioid antagonist pursuant to a standing order shall receive the training provided by an opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program.

(f) Notwithstanding any other law, a person who possesses or distributes an opioid antagonist pursuant to a prescription or standing order shall not be subject to professional review, be liable in a civil action, or be subject to criminal prosecution for this possession or distribution. Notwithstanding any other law, a person not otherwise licensed to administer an opioid antagonist, but trained as required under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d), who acts with reasonable care in administering an opioid antagonist, in good faith and not for compensation, to a person who is experiencing or is suspected of experiencing an overdose shall not be subject to professional review, be liable in a civil action, or be subject to criminal prosecution for this administration.