



# Narcan Distribution Project Policy

**Effective Date** 07/15/2021  
**Approved Date** 07/15/2021

Veronica Kelley, DSW, LCSW, Director

**Policy** It is the policy of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Services (SUDRS), to distribute intranasal Naloxone (Narcan®) directly to SUDRS clients in accordance with the California Statewide Naloxone Standing Order, California Civil Code § 1714.22 and DBH Information Notice (IN) 18-08 – Standing Order Requirement for Administering NARCAN® Nasal Spray.

**Purpose** To outline established standards for DBH’s Narcan distribution project which allows SUDRS Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselors, medical staff and authorized clinical staff to distribute intranasal naloxone directly to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) clients or other eligible persons who they determine to need the medication.

**Definition(s)**

**Drug Administration** is the act of administering a single dose of a prescribed drug or biologic given to a patient by an authorized person in accordance with governing laws and regulations.

**Medications** are substances or preparations used in treating disease or illness. Medications are DBH property prescribed by a Psychiatrist/Physician for a DBH client, donated to DBH for a client, or abandoned at a DBH clinic.

**Naloxone** is an opioid antagonist used to reverse the effects of opioids -- and is an antidote to opioid overdose. Naloxone works by blocking the opioid receptor sites.

**NARCAN® Nasal Spray** is the brand name for Intranasal Naloxone Hydrochloride, a prescription medicine used for the treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose emergencies. One (1) package of Narcan contains two (2) doses of intranasal naloxone medication.

**Opioids** are prescription medications used to treat pain, such as morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, hydromorphone, and buprenorphine; as well as illegal drugs, such as heroin and illicit potent opioids such as fentanyl analogs (e.g., diverted substances).

*Continued on next page*

## Narcan Distribution Project Policy, Continued

---

**Background** The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to combat opioid overdose-related deaths. Under the program, SUD treatment programs are able to request free naloxone from DHCS and provide take-home naloxone to clients or to a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist an individual at risk of an opioid related overdose.

---

**Naloxone Standing Order Elements** Per California Civil Code § 1714.22, a standing order must be issued by licensed health care provider who is authorized by law to prescribe opioid antagonist for the administration of intranasal naloxone during an opioid-related overdose. As specified in DBH's IN 18-08, DBH's Addiction Medicine Physician issued a Standing Order authorizing DBH to maintain supplies of intranasal naloxone kits for the purpose of distributing them to clients at risk of an overdose or other person in a position to assist an individual at risk of an opioid related overdose.

---

**Naloxone Recipient Eligibility** Pursuant to California Civil Code § 1714.22(c)(1), an opioid antagonist, such as Naloxone, may be distributed to any 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.

---

**Related Policy or Procedure** The referenced policies and procedures can be located in the [DBH Standard Practice Manual](#):

- Control, Access and Accountability of Medications and Medical Supplies Policy (MDS2008)
- Control, Access and Accountability of Medications and Medical Supplies Procedure (MDS2008-1)
- Intranasal Naloxone Policy (MDS2028)
- Intranasal Naloxone Procedure (MDS2028-1)
- Narcan Distribution Project Procedure (MDS2032-1)

---

**Reference(s)**

- [California Civil Code, Section 1714.22](#)
- [California Department of Public Health, Naloxone Statewide Standing Order Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [DBH's Information Notice \(IN\) 18-08 – Standing Order Requirement for Administering NARCAN® Nasal Spray.](#)
- [Standing Order to Dispense Naloxone Hydrochloride](#)

---