



Naloxone Distribution Project Policy

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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, family members, friends or other individuals in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid related overdose in accordance with the California Civil Code § 1714.22, AB816, and SB 641.

Purpose To describe standards for the DBH Naloxone distribution project which allows SUDRS Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) counselors, medical staff and other authorized DBH staff to distribute intranasal naloxone directly to SUDRS clients or the public.

Definition(s) **Drug Administration:** 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: Substances or preparations used in treating disease or illness.

Naloxone: A medication that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and allow time for medical help to arrive. Naloxone works by blocking the opioid receptor sites.

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

Opioids: 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).

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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 the public.

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. Naloxone may be distributed to any individual age 12+ years of age.

Related Policy or Procedure

[DBH Standard Practice Manual and Departmental Forms:](#)

- [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 \(MDS2028-1\)](#)
 - [Naloxone Distribution Project Procedure \(MDS2032-1\)](#)
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Reference(s)

- [California Civil Code, Section 1714.22](#)
 - [AB 816](#)
 - [SB 641](#)
 - [AB1166](#)
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