

Naloxone Dispensing

Is there a limit to how much naloxone may be dispensed to an individual?

No. There is no legal limit in Kansas. A pharmacist may exercise their discretion in limiting dispensing.

Can a pharmacist be liable for dispensing or administering naloxone?

No. Any pharmacist who, in good faith and with reasonable care, prescribes or dispenses an emergency opioid antagonist without a prescription shall not, by an act or omission, be subject to civil liability, criminal prosecution or any disciplinary or other adverse action by the Board of Pharmacy arising from the pharmacist dispensing the emergency opioid antagonist.

Additionally, any bystander (including a pharmacist) who, in good faith and with reasonable care, administers an emergency opioid antagonist to a person experiencing a suspected opioid overdose shall not, by an act or omission, be subject to civil liability or criminal prosecution, unless personal injury results from the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct in the administration of the emergency opioid antagonist.

Is dispensing under the statewide protocol mandatory?

No. The pharmacist has ultimate discretion to participate in this program, and the discretion to dispense to each patient or bystander.

What information do I have to send to the Board?

Upon signing the protocol, send a copy of the last page of the protocol to the Board by mail, fax, or email within five days of signing.

Do I need to keep a paper copy of the signed protocol on file?

A signed copy should be retained on paper or electronically in each location that a pharmacist dispenses naloxone, and must be readily retrievable upon Board inspection.

Do I need any special education, training, or CE to dispense?

A pharmacist must have education and training necessary to competently dispense and administer an emergency opioid antagonist. However, the Board does not require specific continuing education courses.

Do I have to sign or follow the statewide protocol to dispense according to a valid prescription?

No. You may continue to dispense naloxone with a prescription in accordance with normal pharmacy practice standards.

Can a consumer refuse counseling?

No. If the consumer refuses verbal counseling, naloxone should not be dispensed.

Can a pharmacist recommend naloxone based on a consumer's prescription history?

Yes, a pharmacist has discretion to dispense naloxone based on one or more of the following:

- Pharmacist recommendation based on a patient's prescription history.
- Previous opioid intoxication or overdose.
- History of nonmedical opioid use.
- Initiation or cessation of methadone or buprenorphine for opioid use disorder treatment.
- Higher-dose (>50 mg morphine equivalent/day) or long-acting opioid prescription.
- Receiving any opioid prescription plus:
 - Rotated from one opioid to another because of possible incomplete cross-tolerance.
 - Smoking, COPD, emphysema, asthma, sleep apnea, respiratory infection or other respiratory illness.
 - Renal dysfunction, hepatic disease, cardiac illness or HIV/AIDS.
 - Known or suspected concurrent alcohol use.
 - Concurrent benzodiazepine or other sedative prescription.
 - Concurrent antidepressant prescription.
- Patients who may have difficulty accessing emergency medical services (distance, remoteness).
- Voluntary request from a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist an individual who there is reason to believe is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.
- Request from a first responder agency or school nurse pursuant to 2017 HB 2217, sec. 1, paragraphs (e) and (f).

Does the protocol expire?

No. If the protocol is revised in the future, the Board will notify all Kansas pharmacists.

Are there any age restrictions for dispensing naloxone?

No. However, the pharmacist must have consent of a legal guardian to dispense to a consumer under 18 years of age.

Does each pharmacy need a separate protocol?

No. The protocol is pharmacist-specific, not pharmacy-specific.

Does each pharmacist need to find a physician to sign the protocol?

No. The protocol is pre-signed by one physician on behalf of the entire state. It is available for download on the Board website at any time, to be signed by a pharmacist who wants to dispense naloxone without a prescription.