

NALOXONE PRESCRIBING PROTOCOL

Physician prescribing of naloxone is a critical step in reducing the number of overdose deaths from opioids. Over three-fourths of opioid overdose deaths occur outside a medical facility. By prescribing naloxone in those at high risk of overdose and to those receiving opioid medications increases the probability that naloxone will be available in the case of an emergency.

Naloxone is a pure antagonist medication approved for use in reversing the effects of narcotics and approved by the FDA for reversing an opioid overdose. It is available in multiple dosages and routes of administration, including intramuscular, intravenous, and intranasal formulations.

Patients receiving prescribed narcotics or using illicit opioids would benefit from naloxone and should receive education and a prescription for NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY. (See the Patient and Family Naloxone Education); therefore,

**NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY should be
prescribed for anyone receiving chronic narcotics except in rare instances.**

Patients may be at risk for overdose related to opioid dosing or pre-existing medical conditions that could interact with the opioids and slow or halt breathing. Patients who at particular risk for overdose include those who:

1. History of previous overdose
2. Taking ≥ 50 Morphine Milligram Equivalents daily
3. Having a chronic medical illness including hepatic or renal impairment, chronic lung disease, sleep apnea, or heart disease
4. Changing from an immediate release to long-acting opioids
5. Taking benzodiazepines and mixing substances with opioids such as benzodiazepines or alcohol
6. Using illicit substances or misusing prescription medications or has an Opioid or Substance Use Disorder
7. Have a mental illness unrelated to Substance Use Disorder
8. Recent relapse from opioid abstinence
9. Recent release from incarceration
10. Patients with an opioid prescription with small children in the home who could access to the medication
11. Patients who have difficulty accessing emergency medical care