



Naloxone, Overdose Prevention + Harm Reduction

Naloxone, the lifesaving antidote to an opioid overdose, is recommended for patients at risk for opioid overdose by the CDC, SAMHSA, World Health Organization, American Medical Association, FDA and many other health authorities. Many states have passed laws mandating naloxone co-prescribing for high-risk patients or allow patients to fill naloxone without a prescription. The evidence behind naloxone as a tool to decrease overdose deaths is robust. For clinicians who prescribe opioids or care for patients with OUD the prescription of naloxone is rapidly becoming the standard of care.

The provision of a naloxone prescription can help facilitate a discussion between clinicians and patients about the risks of overdose, the importance of compliance with medical regimens and counseling on behaviors that may increase the risk of an overdose. Naloxone is an efficient, low barrier way for clinicians to demonstrate good opioid stewardship principles and improve patient safety. The following is recommended for patients on chronic opioid therapy.

Compass Opioid Stewardship Program Recommends the Following to Clinicians

- + Education on opioid overdose, use of naloxone, and safe storage and disposal of medication should be provided to all patients on chronic opioid therapy.
- + Naloxone should be prescribed to all patients on chronic opioid therapy.
- + In patients at high risk of overdose, clinicians should verify that a naloxone prescription is filled. This can easily be done by asking patients to bring their naloxone with them to their office visit.
- + Patients with children, pets or family members should be counseled on the risks of diversion and accidental overdose. Naloxone can improve safety for all members and guests of a household where opioids are present.

The tools below are meant to help educate clinicians and to be used to educate patients on the importance of naloxone.

Patient Education Materials

- + [Preventing opioid overdose death: A guide to naloxone for patients on chronic opioid therapy](#)
- + [Narcan Training Video #1](#)
- + [Narcan Training Video #2](#)
- + [Safe storage and disposal of prescription medications](#)

Clinician Materials and Recommendations

- + [Brief analysis on naloxone for patients on chronic opioid therapy: Naloxone is effective, well-received and underutilized](#)

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