



Board of Pharmacy

This communication is intended to inform pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians of recent action taken by the General Assembly to amend §§ 8.01-225 and 54.1-3408 of the Code of Virginia to increase access to naloxone or other opioid antagonist used for overdose reversal.

Opioid overdoses from prescription drugs or heroin continue to pose a significant threat to the citizens of the Commonwealth. Increasing access to naloxone will potentially save lives of those patients at risk of accidental overdose due to chronic use of opioids for legitimate medical reasons as well as those who may abuse or misuse opioids.

Specifically, the law authorizes a pharmacist to dispense naloxone pursuant to an oral, written or standing order issued by a prescriber, and in accordance with protocols developed by the Board of Pharmacy in consultation with the Board of Medicine and the Department of Health. The law also allows a person to possess and administer naloxone to another person who is believed to be experiencing or about to experience a life-threatening opiate overdose. Additionally, law-enforcement officers as defined in § 9.1-101 and firefighters who have completed a training program may also possess and administer naloxone in accordance with protocols developed by the Board of Pharmacy in consultation with the Board of Medicine and the Department of Health.

The protocol for prescribing and dispensing naloxone may be accessed at <http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Pharmacy/news/NaloxoneProtocolForPharmacists.pdf>

Copies of the informational brochure designed for pharmacists to distribute along with the naloxone may be downloaded from <http://dbhds.virginia.gov/library/document-library/osas-revive-pharmacy-dispensing-brochure.pdf>

Pharmacists may obtain kits containing appropriate contents for dispensing naloxone for intranasal administration (medication not included) from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services by contacting REVIVE@dbhds.virginia.gov

Additional information regarding REVIVE!, the Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education program may be accessed at <http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov/individuals-and-families/substance-abuse/revive>

Thank you.

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