

## ***FAQ for Naloxone Protocol***

**Q: Where are the provisions that authorize a pharmacist to furnish naloxone without a prescription?**

A: Title 16 California Code of Regulations section 1746.3 establishes the protocol.

**Q: What training or continuing education (CE) is required prior to furnishing naloxone?**

A: Pharmacists using the protocol have two options to meet the required training/CE prior to administering naloxone:

1. The pharmacist must have successfully completed a minimum of a one hour approved CE program specific to all routes of naloxone administration as identified in 16 CCR 1746.3 (c)(4); or,
2. The pharmacist must have successfully completed an equivalent curriculum-based training program completed in a board recognized school of pharmacy.

**Q: Is the pharmacist required to screen the recipient prior to furnishing naloxone in accordance with the protocol?**

A: Yes. The pharmacist must screen the recipient using the following questions:

1. Whether the potential recipient currently uses or has a history of using illicit or prescription opioids. (If the recipient answers yes, the pharmacist may skip screening question 2.);
2. Whether the potential recipient is in contact with anyone who uses or has a history of using illicit or prescription opioids. (If the recipient answers yes, the pharmacist may continue);
3. Whether the person to whom the naloxone would be administered has a known hypersensitivity to naloxone. (If the recipient answers yes, the pharmacist may not provide naloxone. If the recipient responds no, the pharmacist may continue.)

**Q: Who is the recipient?**

A: A recipient is the person to whom the naloxone is furnished.

**Q: Who is the patient?**

A: The patient is the person to whom the naloxone would be administered. (Note: The recipient may or may not also be the patient.)

**Q: Are these screening questions available in different languages? Where can I get the translated versions?**

A: Yes, the screening questions are available in Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. The translated screening questions may be downloaded from the board's website: [http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/naloxone\\_info.shtml](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/naloxone_info.shtml)

**Q: Is the pharmacist required to provide the recipient with training? If so, what type of training is required?**

A: Yes, the pharmacist is required to provide the recipient with training. Training must include the following topics: opioid overdose prevention, recognition, response and administration of the antidote naloxone.

**Q: What is required to be provided to the recipient when naloxone is furnished?**

A: When a pharmacist provides naloxone to a recipient, the following must be provided to the recipient:

1. Appropriate counseling and information on the furnished naloxone including dosing, effectiveness, adverse effects, storage conditions, shelf-life, and safety. The recipient is not permitted to waive the required consultation.
2. Any informational resources on hand and/or referrals to appropriate resources if the recipient indicates interest in addiction treatment, recovery services, or medication disposal resources at the time of furnishing naloxone.
3. Responses to any questions the recipient may have about naloxone.

**Q: When the pharmacist initiates patient consultation to the recipient of the naloxone, is the recipient allowed to waive the patient consultation?**

A: No, the recipient is not allowed to waive the patient consultation for naloxone.

**Q: What forms of naloxone may the pharmacist provide to the recipient?**

A: The pharmacist may supply naloxone in the following forms:

1. Intramuscular injection;
2. Intranasal spray;
3. Auto-injector; or
4. FDA-approved product form.

**Q. Does the board have sample naloxone labels available?**

A: Yes. The board's sample naloxone labels can be found at:

[http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/naloxone\\_labels.shtml](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/licensees/naloxone_labels.shtml)

**Q: Is the pharmacist required to provide the naloxone fact sheet upon furnishing naloxone?**

A: Yes, the pharmacist shall provide a copy of the board-approved naloxone fact sheet. It can be found at: [http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/naloxone\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/naloxone_fact_sheet.pdf). The fact sheet is also available in other languages including Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Russian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

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**Q: Is the pharmacist authorized to notify a physician about the dispensing of naloxone?**

A: If consent is given by the patient, the consent can be either verbal or written. The pharmacist is required to notify a patient's primary care provider (PCP) of any drug(s) and/or device(s) furnished or enter information in a patient record system shared with the PCP.

**Q: If the patient does not have a PCP or chooses not to give notification consent, what must the pharmacist do?**

A: The pharmacist is required to provide a written record of the drug(s) and/or device(s) furnished and advise the patient to consult a health care provider of the patient's choice.

**Q: How long must records of furnishing naloxone be kept?**

A: Documentation shall be maintained for at least three years from date of furnishing.

**Q: Do privacy laws apply to furnishing naloxone?**

A: The same laws apply to naloxone as to other dangerous drugs.