



How to Start a Naloxone Program

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Naloxone Basics



- Takes affect in 2-4 minutes and lasts 30-90 minutes.
- Intramuscular and nasal forms work similarly well.
- Naloxone DOES work on fentanyl.
- Still requires a prescription (not over the counter) though many states have a statewide standing order.
- Cost varies by product. The most popular nasal brand Narcan[®] costs either \$75 or \$125 per 2-dose kit.

- Providers can prescribe naloxone to patients who are at risk of an overdose.
- Programs can purchase and distribute under an organizational, statewide, or tribal standing order.
- Many pharmacies can also prescribe naloxone directly to patients. Varies from state to state and different tribes.

- Many states have laws that provide protections for people to carry and administer naloxone.
- All 50 states have Good Samaritan Laws that provide protections for people who call 911 and overdose victims but these vary from state to state.
- Tribes can implement their own Good Samaritan Laws or choose to use the state's laws.



1. Prioritize Distribution

- Who should get naloxone?
 - Who is most likely to have an overdose?
 - Who is most likely to witness an overdose?
 - How will you identify at-risk individuals?
- How much naloxone will be needed and cost?



1. Prioritize Distribution

- Highest risk for overdose:
 - People who use opioids illicitly, including heroin.
 - People with opioid use disorder, including those in recovery.
 - People on high dose opioids, especially those who also use benzodiazepines or alcohol.
- Other potential first responders:
 - Law enforcement, fire departments, social service providers.
 - Friends and family of people who use opioids.



2. How will distribution work?

- Who will:
 - oversee the naloxone program?
 - distribute the naloxone?
 - provide training?
- Where will the naloxone be stored (away from direct light and extreme temperatures)
- How and who will manage inventory?



3. Standing order for naloxone

- In a **standing order**, a prescriber authorizes specific people (e.g., health educator, counselor) to conduct specific tasks within specific protocols on behalf of that prescriber.
- Many states, including Washington, have a statewide standing order.
- Any healthcare provider with prescriptive authority can issue a standing order to an organization.
- Must have a prescriber on record when purchasing naloxone.
- Samples on www.stopoverdose.org.



4. Good Samaritan Laws

- “Good Samaritan” laws protect first responders and laypersons who administer naloxone from civilian and criminal liability. Some tribes defer to state laws. All states have some form of Good Samaritan Law, but they vary.
- Others adopt their own good-faith immunity ordinances into tribal code.
- Consult your tribal attorney.
- National Indian Law Library has a searchable database of tribal codes:
<https://www.narf.org/nill/triballaw/index.html>



5. Purchasing naloxone?

- Option 1:
- Your tribal pharmacy can order naloxone through existing medical supplies or pharmaceutical wholesaler accounts.
- The pharmacy can fill prescriptions from medical providers or it may have a Collaborative Practice Agreement under Indian Health Services protocols to be able to prescribe naloxone directly to individuals.



5. Purchasing naloxone?

- Option 2:
- Partner with a local pharmacy who can prescribe naloxone directly.
- Any pharmacy can fill outside provider prescriptions for naloxone, and many pharmacies even offer delivery services.



5. Purchasing naloxone?

- Option 3:
- For Narcan® nasal spray only, set up an online account with ADAPT Pharma for easy online ordering and invoicing at www.narcandirect.com. You will need to submit the name of your prescriber and a copy of his/her standing order.



6. Present to Tribal Council

- Present the naloxone distribution plan, standing order, and ordinance revisions to Tribal Council for approval.



7. Train people distributing

- Training should include how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose and how to administer naloxone.
- Training materials/videos on www.stopoverdose.org (for Washington) other materials available at <https://prescribetoprevent.org/>
- For Washington, we can help you connect with training: Email us at stopovd@uw.edu.
- For other states, reach out to your local health department for guidance on where to find naloxone training.



8. Other considerations

- Monitor expiration dates of kits in inventory and replace expired kits.
- Replace kits for individuals that have expired or been used in a reversal.
- Document distribution or collect data on reversals. Reliable data can be helpful in assessing needs and gaps in overdose prevention and applying for future funds.
- Who should be your “point person” to oversee naloxone distribution, answer questions, and report regularly to Tribal Council or others about the progress and results of the program.

Thank you!



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