



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dear Pharmacist,

RE: Physician General's Standing Order Prescription for Naloxone for Eligible Persons under Act 139 of 2014

This letter is to inform you of the Standing Order prescription signed by the Physician General on October 28, 2015. The Standing Order is intended to ensure that all persons who are permitted under Act 139 to receive Naloxone are able to access and effectively use the medication. Naloxone is a safe and effective medication that counters opiate overdoses and restores breathing by blocking the effects of opioids on the brain.

Act 139 was enacted by the General Assembly in response to the current opioid overdose crisis in the Commonwealth. Under Act 139, authorized medical professionals are permitted to dispense, prescribe or distribute Naloxone to anyone at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, as well as to family members, friends or any other person who may be in a position to assist such a person. Thus, the Act specifically permits the writing and filling of both direct and third-party prescriptions for Naloxone.

Further details about Act 139 may be found at the following websites:

www.ddap.pa.gov

www.health.state.pa.us

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us>

A person's lack of immediate access to their own primary care physician, or other medical provider should not prevent them from being able to access the life-saving medication, Naloxone. The attached Standing Order is an authorized prescription for Naloxone that allows a pharmacy to dispense Naloxone in intra-nasal and auto-injector forms to individuals. The standing order has been updated to include the new intra-nasal preparation by Adapt Pharma, NARCAN Nasal Spray 4mg. It does not permit intra-muscular (IM) syringes to be dispensed, although pharmacists may certainly dispense Naloxone in IM form under separate prescriptions written by other health care providers.

Insurance companies vary in how they cover naloxone and other drugs used to treat an opioid overdose. Fee-for-Service Medicaid and the medical assistance managed care organizations will pay for naloxone dispensed under the Standing Order.


The Standing Order strongly advises any person obtaining Naloxone to complete a training program, and provides links to approved programs. We ask and encourage pharmacists to take the opportunity to fully and appropriately educate Eligible Persons obtaining Naloxone in accordance with


KAREN M MURPHY PHD, RN / SECRETARY


the Standing Order and review with the patient the written materials which come with the drug. Our mutual goal is to ensure that individuals have the information they need to save lives.

The Department of Health and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs appreciate your support of this effort and look forward to working with you further to ensure that each and every person in the Commonwealth who can benefit from Naloxone can access it and have the ability to use it effectively. If you have questions regarding the SO visit the provided links or email RA-DHNALOXONE@pa.gov. On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, we ask for your support in this effort to eradicate death from opiate overdoses, and we thank you for the work you do every day to improve the health and lives of your fellow citizen.

Sincerely,


Karen Murphy, PhD/RN
Secretary
Department of Health


Rachel Levine, MD
Physician General
Department of Health


Gary Tennis
Secretary
Department of Drug and
Alcohol Programs