

### Opioid Abuse, Naloxone Access and Guidance

August 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

Pharmacists,

Prescription drug abuse remains a public health problem in Oklahoma. Oklahoma is ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation for prescription drug overdose deaths occurring between 2011-2013. Most overdoses are linked to opioid painkillers obtained by prescription from community pharmacies. Naloxone is used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose. Administered correctly, along with appropriate medical care and substance abuse treatment, it is a recommended means to save lives and reduce the overall impact of addiction.

Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy and FDA guidance interprets recent legislation to allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription, but **the pharmacy must have an established protocol or collaborative practice agreement** in place to do so. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority encourages pharmacies to consider making naloxone available for at-risk SoonerCare members.

The following injectable dosage forms of naloxone are covered for SoonerCare members:

NALOXONE HCL INJECTION 0.4 MG/ML DISP SYRIN 0.4 MG/ML  
NALOXONE HCL INJECTION 0.4 MG/ML VIAL 0.4 MG/ML  
NALOXONE HCL INJECTION 1 MG/ML DISP SYRIN 1 MG/ML  
NALOXONE HCL 0.4 MG/0.4 (*Prior authorization required*)

As a pharmacist, you play an important role by making this life-saving drug easily available and accessible, as well as communicating the importance of proper administration of this medication. At SoonerCare we are working with other state agencies to reduce barriers and amend policies surrounding naloxone. See the selected resources section for more information.

#### **Selected resources with corresponding QR code for quick access:**

Take As Prescribed Pharmacy Resources available here: <http://takeasprescribed.org/pharmacy-provider-resources/>

Naloxone Access: A Practical Guide for Pharmacists available here:  
<http://cpnp.org/docs/guideline/naloxone/naloxone-access.pdf>

Sample Protocols and Sample Practice Agreements for Pharmacies available here:  
<http://prescribetoprevent.org/pharmacists/behind-the-counter-models/> accessed June 24<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Protocol and Practice Agreements may be directed to the following contact [jhawkins@odmhsas.org](mailto:jhawkins@odmhsas.org)  
Pharmacy specific questions or comments e-mail: [Pharmacy@okhca.org](mailto:Pharmacy@okhca.org)



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