

Naloxone distribution in emergency departments

SB 5195 Frequently Asked Questions for Administrators

Who is required to receive pre-packaged naloxone in-hand from the ED?

Patients with opioid overdose, symptoms of opioid use disorder, or any adverse event related to opioid use.

Does the law require a specific screening process?

No, your organization can determine what is best for your institution and workflow if patients who meet inclusion criteria are reliably screened in. The toolkit includes a variety of possible screening protocols.

What are the exceptions to the in-hand naloxone distribution requirement?

The patient already has naloxone; provider clinical judgement; and patient refusal.

What are the patient education requirements for patients who receive naloxone in hand?

If patients are given pre-packaged naloxone, they must also be given direct training on the medication and printed educational materials on how to use naloxone, harm reduction strategies, and medications for opioid use disorder.

Is this only for adult patients?

No, the law does not limit distribution to patients over the age of 18.

Will the ED need to give a kit to a known patient on each separate visit?

You will need to assess the need for naloxone at each visit for patients who meet inclusion criteria regardless of how recently you last saw them. If you determine they have naloxone, it is not required to distribute an additional kit.

Can a patient be given a prescription instead of the actual pre-packaged naloxone?

No, the law requires actual in-hand distribution as well as a prescription for distribution in the patient record.

Are we required to provide patients who have short term opioid prescriptions with a kit in hand?

The law does not require naloxone distribution to patients with short term opioid prescriptions unless the patient meets other inclusion criteria. It could be appropriate to provide these patients with a naloxone prescription.

Do patients admitted to acute or critical care units require naloxone distribution on discharge?

The law does not require inpatient medical units to distribute pre-packaged naloxone.

Can my organization utilize grant funded naloxone for this program?

Starting January 1st, 2022, emergency departments may not utilize new grant funded naloxone to meet the requirements of the law. Organizations may prepurchase their own supply or provide kits at no cost to patients.

Is there a state-wide program to address a patient's inability to pay co-pays?

There are no copays for patients with Apple Health Medicaid. There is currently no statewide program to address an inability to meet naloxone co-payments. Organizations may also consider using existing charity care or financial assistance programs toward naloxone co-pays.

Learn more and access implementation toolkits and patient education materials at the [HCA SB 5195 webpage](#)

