

FAQ for Naloxone Distribution in Behavioral Health Settings

SB 5195 Frequently Asked Questions for Administrators

Can agencies utilize grant funded naloxone to meet the requirements of this program?

The intention of the law is for agencies to utilize insurance, whenever possible, as a sustainable payment method for naloxone distribution. By using insurance, state supplies of grant funded naloxone will go to organizations without billing capacity. Under the law, organizations may use any other resources or means authorized by state law to meet the requirements in SB 5195. There may be limited clinical scenarios where utilizing grant funded naloxone aligns with delivering optimal patient care.

Will we need to give a kit each time a client comes in for services?

If the client still has naloxone, it is not required that you distribute an additional kit.

Does the law require a specific screening process?

No, you can determine what is best for your agency and workflow if clients who meet inclusion criteria are reliably screened in. BHA inclusion criteria include any client presenting with symptoms of an opioid use disorder (OUD), or who report use of opioids outside legal authority. The toolkit includes a variety of possible screening protocols, frequency, and considerations.

What is the statewide standing order?

The standing order is a prescription. It is not different from a regular prescription. It is a statewide prescription that any individual or organization can use. It does not make naloxone over the counter. Please refer to the [RCW for more information](#).

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

The client already has naloxone; provider clinical judgement; and if the client declines.

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

There is a zero-dollar copay for clients with Medicaid. Currently, there is not a statewide program to address an inability to meet naloxone prescription co-payments. Organizations may use existing charity care or financial assistance programs toward naloxone co-pays.

What exactly do clients need to have in hand if given pre-packaged naloxone?

If patients are given pre-packaged naloxone, they must also be given educational materials on how to use naloxone, harm reduction strategies and medication for opioid use disorder. HCA provides these materials on the [SB 5195 webpage](#) for download.

