## Program overview

Research indicates that paper prescriptions for naloxone often go unfilled, while naloxone distributed directly to patients is regularly used to reverse potentially fatal overdoses. Emergency department distribution of naloxone to all patients who present to the emergency department with symptoms of opioid use disorder or other adverse event related to opioid use . is required by law as of 1/1/2022.

## Purpose of naloxone distribution program

To reduce the risk fatal of opioid overdose by providing naloxone at the point of care. Risk factors for opioid overdose include:

* Restarting opioid use after a break or change in type/dose. This includes after leaving jail or prison, some types of drug treatment, and hospital admissions.
* Mixing opioids with other sedatives
* Taking prescription pain medication in higher doses and/or more often than prescribed.
* Using heroin or any drug not obtained from a pharmacy or cannabis dispensary, due to unknown purity or origin
* History of opioid overdose
* Using opioids alone and/or in remote, rural, or settings that are not easily accessed by emergency services.

## Discharge materials

* Prepackaged Overdose Reversal Medication (naloxone)
* Patient Education Brochures
* Discharge Education Signature Sheet

## Distribution process

* Identify risk for overdose based on *(insert specific screening process*) and confirm patient willingness to receive naloxone and overdose prevention education.
* Document screening *(insert process)*
* Obtain naloxone kit from secure storage location *(insert location, process for access/tracking)*
* Review the overdose reversal quick sheet and patient brochures included in the kit with patient. Complete overdose prevention education as trained in accordance with hospital standards. A pre-recorded training video may be used to support this education.
* Complete distribution signature sheet with signatures of both patient and staff member providing training and submit to *(insert process)*
* Document overdose education and naloxone distribution *(insert process)*

**For more information, please refer to hospital policy (*insert name/policy number here*)**