

Naloxone Access Options in California

FALL 2018

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that can safely and quickly reverse an opioid overdose. People who use opioids, their friends and family members, health care providers, safety-net clinics, drug treatment programs, local health departments, first responders, and other concerned Californians are coming together to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths in the state by distributing naloxone to the people most likely to witness an overdose. The following table contains information for various stakeholders on where to find or purchase naloxone for use in their communities.

Note: Overdose prevention and response training is available online at www.getnaloxonenow.org. Information for prescribers is available at www.prescribetoprevent.org. Information for people who use drugs and the people who serve them is available at harmreduction.org.

STAKEHOLDER TYPE	NALOXONE ACCESS OPTION
First responders (emergency medical services, sheriff's departments, fire departments, law enforcement agencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Emergency medical services and law enforcement departments may purchase naloxone with their existing budgets/purchasing authority. <i>"Funds can come from a variety of sources. Some law enforcement overdose response initiatives have been funded directly out of their operational budget. Naloxone supplies can also be made available through partnerships with local emergency medical services, businesses, or health care institutions. Forfeiture funds can be used to fund naloxone rescue kits along with training and limited overtime costs."</i> <p style="text-align: right;">— Bureau of Justice</p>
Local behavioral health departments and alcohol and drug treatment programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project¹ Starting in early 2019, \$19.7 million of naloxone will be distributed in California to a broad array of organizations with a simple application process. Please carefully consider quantities needed before ordering, as the shelf life of naloxone is 18 to 24 months. For more information, contact: DHCSMATexpansion@dhcs.ca.gov. ▶ MAT Expansion Project¹ See "First responders" section for more information. ▶ Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Counties that opt in to DMC-ODS are required to provide narcotic treatment program services, including naloxone. For more information, see Medication-Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorders and the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System: Frequently Asked Questions² or this list of DMC-ODS counties. ▶ Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Block Grant (SAPTBG) A 2014 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Policy Letter³ clarified that SAPTBG funds can be used to purchase naloxone and necessary material to assemble and disseminate overdose kits, and for overdose prevention education and training. ▶ Direct Relief⁴ Health departments can obtain free injectable naloxone through this option.
Local health departments to disseminate in their counties per their dissemination plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MAT Expansion Project¹ See "First responders" section for more information. ▶ California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Safe and Active Communities Branch One-time funding only. All CDPH naloxone will be disseminated (to local health departments) by the end of 2018. ▶ Direct Relief⁴ Health departments can obtain free injectable naloxone through this option.
Medi-Cal beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Pharmacy Benefit Naloxone is available to people with Medi-Cal with a prescription from their doctor, or can be furnished by participating pharmacies without a prescription.
Medicare beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Part D Plans Naloxone is available to people with Medicare with a prescription from their doctor, or can be furnished by participating pharmacies without a prescription.

STAKEHOLDER TYPE

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Parents, friends, and family members of people who use opioids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Community Pharmacies, Community Distribution Sites Naloxone can be furnished at a participating pharmacy without a prescription, dispensed as a prescription, or given to families by community-based organizations that distribute it.
Private insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Health Plans' Pharmacy Benefits Many plans cover naloxone. For more information, call your insurance provider.
Safety-net community clinics and community health centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MAT Expansion Project¹ See "First responders" section for more information about obtaining free naloxone. The naloxone can then be dispensed by prescription or under standing order. ▶ Direct Relief⁴ Safety-net clinics and community health centers can obtain free injectable naloxone.
Schools and universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MAT Expansion Project¹ See "First responders" section for more information about obtaining free naloxone. The naloxone can then be dispensed by prescription or under standing order.
Syringe exchange programs and their participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MAT Expansion Project¹ See "First responders" section for more information about obtaining free naloxone. The naloxone can then be dispensed by prescription or under standing order. ▶ California Syringe Exchange Supplies Clearinghouse⁵ Authorized syringe exchange programs in California can receive free naloxone and other supplies through the California Syringe Exchange Supplies Clearinghouse. For more information, contact: Carol Crump at carol.crump@cdph.ca.gov. ▶ Direct Relief⁴ Syringe exchange programs operated by health departments can obtain free injectable naloxone. ▶ Opioid Safety and Naloxone Network (OSNN) Naloxone Purchasing Group Syringe exchanges that are interested in naloxone via the Clearinghouse must set up an OSNN account. Injectable naloxone at an extremely discounted price is available to any qualifying nonprofit organization that engages with people who use drugs or other potential lay bystanders (family, friends, service providers) through the OSNN Naloxone Purchasing Group. For more information, contact: Eliza Wheeler wheeler@harmreduction.org.
Nonprofit organizations serving people who use drugs and other potential layperson bystanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ OSNN Naloxone Purchasing Group Injectable naloxone at an extremely discounted price is available to any qualifying nonprofit organization that engages with people who use drugs or other potential lay bystanders (family, friends, service providers) through the OSNN Naloxone Purchasing Group. For more information, contact: Eliza Wheeler wheeler@harmreduction.org. ▶ MAT Expansion Project¹ See "First responders" section for more information about obtaining free naloxone. The naloxone can then be dispensed by prescription or under standing order.

1. The California MAT Expansion Project, California Department of Health Care Services, www.dhcs.ca.gov.

2. *Medication-Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorders and the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System: Frequently Asked Questions*, California Department of Health Care Services, June 2018, www.dhcs.ca.gov (PDF).

3. Policy Letter, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, April 2014, www.samhsa.gov (PDF).

4. Direct Relief: www.directrelief.org.

5. Syringe Exchange Programs in California, California Department of Public Health, www.cdph.ca.gov.



**California
Health Care
Foundation**

**For more information about naloxone
and opioid safety, please visit
www.chcf.org/opioid.**