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2nd REVISED STANDING ORDER FOR PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE OPIOID ANTIDOTE FOR OVERDOSE PREVENTION

CONTROL NUMBER: 2021-01 (2nd Revised)

This revised standing order is issued pursuant to P.L.2021, c.152 ("Act"), which provides that the Commissioner of Health, or, if the commissioner is not a duly licensed physician, the Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Services, "shall issue a standing order authorizing all licensed pharmacists in the State to dispense an opioid antidote to any individual or entity, regardless of whether the individual or entity holds an individual prescription for the opioid antidote."

The purpose of this standing order is to make opioid antidotes as easily accessible and as widely available as possible in order to provide treatment to people experiencing a suspected overdose. Nothing in this standing order shall be construed to restrict in any way the ability of any individual or entity to be dispensed an opioid antidote.

The Act defines the following terms:

- "Opioid antidote" as "any drug, regardless of dosage amount or method of administration which has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of an opioid overdose. 'Opioid antidote' includes, but is not limited to naloxone hydrochloride, in any dosage amount, which is administered through nasal spray or any other FDA-approved means or methods. "

- "Drug overdose" means "an acute condition including, but not limited to, physical illness, coma, mania, hysteria, diminished consciousness, respiratory depression, or death resulting from the consumption or use of a controlled dangerous substance or another substance with which a controlled dangerous substance was combined and that a layperson would reasonably believe to require medical assistance."

- "Recipient" means "any individual who or entity that is prescribed or dispensed an opioid antidote" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4 or N.J.S.A. 45:14-67.2

including, but not be limited to, "private citizens, emergency medical responders, emergency medical response entities, law enforcement officers, law enforcement agencies, recognized places of public access, employees and volunteers providing services at, through, or on behalf of a recognized place of public access, public and nonpublic schools, school nurses and other staff at a public or nonpublic school, sterile syringe access programs, and staff and employees of a sterile syringe access program. The term 'recipient' shall not include a prescriber or a licensed pharmacist acting within a professional capacity."

I. AUTHORIZATION

A. This standing order may be used by any recipient as a prescription or third-party prescription to obtain an opioid antidote from a pharmacy. This standing order authorizes pharmacists who maintain active licenses to practice pharmacy in the State of New Jersey and who are in good standing with the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy to dispense an opioid antidote, as defined herein, to any recipient regardless if the recipient has an individual prescription for an opioid antidote. A pharmacist dispensing an opioid antidote shall furnish the recipient with the overdose prevention information set forth in Section III below.

II. ORDER TO DISPENSE FOR PHARMACISTS

A. Unlimited refills are authorized with opioid antidotes.
B. A pharmacist may dispense any other items necessary for the administration of opioid antagonists as determined by the pharmacist's professional judgment (including but not limited to, syringes and mucosal atomization devices), consistent with State and federal law.
C. The dissemination of overdose prevention information, as required by Section III below, shall be documented by the dispensing pharmacist in the recipient's medical record or another appropriate record, log or other similar recordkeeping location.

III. INFORMATION

Upon dispensing an opioid antidote, a pharmacist shall provide the following overdose prevention information to the person receiving the opioid antidote, which information shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Information on opioid overdose prevention and recognition;
B. Instructions on how to perform rescue breathing and resuscitation;
C. Information on dosage and instructions regarding administration in conjunction with the packaging insert included with the opioid antidote;
D. Information describing the importance of calling 911 for assistance with an

opioid overdose;

    E.   Instructions regarding appropriate care of an overdose victim after administration of an opioid antidote; and

    F.   Information on contraindications and precautions.

IV.   ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to the required information provided by a pharmacist to a recipient pursuant to Section III above, a pharmacist may also direct the recipient to the following website for additional information regarding opioid overdose prevention and opioid antidotes: https://nj.gov/humanservices/dmhas/initiatives/naloxone.html.

V.   EXPIRATION AND REVIEW

This revised standing order supersedes the standing orders issued on August 31, 2021 and August 24, 2022.

This revised standing order shall not expire unless and until all forms of opioid antidotes have been approved as over-the-counter medications or until otherwise withdrawn in writing by the Department of Health. This revised standing order will be reviewed periodically and updated as relevant developments in the law or science about opioid antidote administration occur.

A pharmacist dispensing an opioid antidote shall maintain records as required by the Board of Pharmacy.

New Jersey Department of Health
Issuing Official

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Date