



Naloxone for opioid safety

As a healthcare provider, you're likely well aware of the seriousness of the opioid crisis. At PacificSource we are partnering with providers and prescribers to reduce opioid overdoses, and the drug naloxone is one of the most effective strategies to that end.

The statistics tell the story:

- Overdose is the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic and other factors have increased the risk for opioid overdose.
- In Oregon, the number of unintentional opioid overdose deaths has increased steadily over the past three years, totaling 280 in 2019, 472 in 2020, and 656 between January and October 2021.

What is naloxone?

Naloxone hydrochloride (naloxone) is a drug that can temporarily stop the effects of opioid drugs. Naloxone can help restore breathing during an opioid overdose.

When is it best to use naloxone?

Naloxone is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. Naloxone is safe to give to a person who is unconscious because of an opioid overdose.

Patients who may benefit from a naloxone prescription include those with a history of overdose or substance use disorder, and those on higher opioid dosages (more than 50 MME/day) or concurrent benzodiazepine use.

PacificSource Health Plans Formulary for naloxone

- Naloxone 0.4mg/mL solution injection
- Naloxone 2mg/2mL prefilled syringe injection
- Naloxone 0.4mg/mL solution cartridge injection
- Kloxxado (naloxone 8mg/0.1mL nasal)
- Narcan (naloxone 4mg/0.1mL nasal)
- Zimhi (naloxone 5mg/0.5mL prefilled syringe injection)

Note: Availability of naloxone drugs may differ depending on the patient's coverage type (Medicare, Medicaid, or commercial plans). Quantity limits may apply. Visit our websites for more information:

Commercial: PacificSource.com/find-a-drug

Medicaid: CommunitySolutions.PacificSource.com/search/drug

Medicare: Medicare.PacificSource.com/search/drug

What can prescribers do?

Prescribers and pharmacists can help curb opioid overdose by prescribing naloxone. Please educate your patient on opioid safety and prescribe naloxone when appropriate.

References:

Oregon.gov/oha/PH/PreventionWellness/SubstanceUse/Opioids/Documents/monthly_opioid_overdose_related_data_report.pdf

SAMHSA Opioid Overdose Toolkit. (n.d.). Retrieved May 31, 2022, from Store.SAMHSA.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/sma18-4742.pdf

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