

# Co-Prescribing Naloxone with Opioids

## A lack of patient knowledge often leads to opioid misuse and death.

### Patients need education on:

- Opioid prescribed including dangers/risks of taking an opioid – many patients do not realize their medication is an opioid
- Naloxone prescribed including importance of naloxone
- Pain expectations – patients may expect complete resolution of pain when that is not possible
- Opioid side effects
- Proper storage and disposal

### Co-prescribing Statistics:

1. Overdose deaths have decreased by 14% in states that have enacted naloxone access laws
2. Nearly 50,000 lives have been saved as a result of naloxone
3. From 2016-2017 naloxone prescriptions doubled from 134,000 to 330,000.

### When should naloxone be co-prescribed?

1. History of overdose
2. History of substance use disorder
3. Higher opioid doses (>50MME/day)
4. Concurrent benzodiazepine use
5. Co-morbid conditions that cause respiratory depression, such as COPD and sleep apnea



### Know your Naloxone Standing Order:

- Dispensed by a pharmacist
- No physician prescription needed
- Available in 29 states as of 2019

### References:

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3. Kim D, Irwin KS, Khoshnood K. Expanded access to naloxone: options for critical response to the epidemic of opioid overdose mortality. *Am J Public Health.* 2009;99(3):402-407. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2008.136937
4. NIDA. Naloxone DrugFacts. National Institute on Drug Abuse website. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone>. January 11, 2022 Accessed June 28, 2022.
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6. <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/sites/default/files/2018-12/naloxone-coprescribing-guidance.pdf>
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