

Improving Naloxone Distribution in Maine

Maine Pharmacist-Provider Task Force, Spring 2018 | Questions, comments, corrections: Nicholss@husson.edu

Types of Naloxone	Naloxone IV Injection	Naloxone nasal kit (contains vial with nasal adapter)	Narcan NS (naloxone nasal spray)	Evzio (naloxone auto-injector)
				
Dose	0.4 – 2mg	2mg-4mg	4mg	2mg <i>(0.4mg no longer made)</i>
Route	IV, SQ, IM	1/2 vial (1mg) sprayed in each nare	4mg dose sprayed in single nare	2mg IM with spoken instructions
Strength Available	1mg/ml (2ml syringe) 0.4mg/ml (vial)	1mg/ml (2ml syringe)	2mg/0.1ml*, 4mg/0.1ml	0.4mg/0.4ml*, 2mg/0.4ml
Storage requirements	59-86 °F (syringe) 68-77 °F (vial) Fragile: Glass.	59-86 °F (syringe) Fragile: Glass.	Store at 59-77 °F Excursions from 39-104 °F	Store at 59-77 °F Excursions from 39-104 °F
Cost (cash)	\$13 (0.4mg vial) \$33-41 (2mg syringe)	\$33-41/dose + \$10/adapter	\$133-141/box (Each box contains two 4mg doses)	\$5,236-5,482/carton (Each carton contains two 2mg autoinjectors)
MaineCare Status <i>(as of 3/2018)</i>	Non-Preferred	Non-Preferred	Preferred, but limited to 2 units (1 box) per 28days	Non-preferred. Use PA form #20420.
Pros	Fast acting, less costly, and easily titratable	Less costly (but not covered by MaineCare)	Easy to administer and less invasive than injections	1. Easy to use with spoken instructions 2. Trainer demo is available for educational purposes.
Cons	Requires needle technique and introduces risk of needle stick injury	1. Pharmacy must have adapter and be willing to put together kit. 2. May not be covered by insurance since it's not FDA approved. 3. Single 2mg dose is often not high enough for synthetic overdoses.	1. Each unit is one dose. 2. May be cost prohibitive for some patients 3. MaineCare limitations on units/months	1. Very expensive. 2. Once the dose is opened, it must be wasted even if it is not used. 3. Each unit is one dose.
Rx and quantity	#2 single-use 1 mL vials PLUS #2 3 mL syringe w/ 23-25 gauge 1-1.5 inch IM needles	#2- 2mL Luer-Jet™ Luer-Lock needleless syringe plus #1 mucosal atomizer devices (MAD-300)	#1 two-pack of two 4mg/0.1 mL Intranasal devices	#1 two-pack of two 2 mg/0.4 mL prefilled autoinjector devices
Prescription Instructions	Inject 1 mL in shoulder or thigh. Repeat after 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Spray 1 ml (1/2 of syringe) into each nostril. Repeat after 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Spray 0.1 mL into one nostril. Repeat with second device into other nostril after 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response.	Inject into outer thigh as directed by English voice-prompt system. Place black side firmly on outer thigh and depress and hold for 5 seconds. Repeat with second device in 2-3 minutes if no or minimal response

*strength no longer manufactured

Who should receive a prescription for take-home naloxone?

- People with history of overdose, including those currently receiving care for an opioid overdose.
- People who inject drugs.
- People with opioid use disorder (even those who do not inject), including those released from criminal justice or leaving residential treatment with a history of non-medical use of opioids.
- Patients receiving higher dose opioids (50+ MME).
- Patient receiving any dose opioids and are co-prescribed a benzodiazepine or barbiturate or who have co-morbid conditions that lead to respiratory compromise (sleep apnea or COPD).
- Patients receiving any dose opioids and have an alcohol use disorder.

What about payment? Don't forget to bill through insurance when applicable!

- MaineCare: Narcan NS: 2 units per 28 days
- Anthem/BCBS: Naloxone 1mg/ml injection or Narcan NS: \$40 copay
- Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare: Narcan NS: \$0 copay for up to 4 units per 30 days (2 packs)
- Maine Community Health Options: Narcan NS is the preferred brand

Naloxone Best Practices:

- Naloxone is harm reduction and Motivational Interviewing should include an explanation about why the clinician is concerned. It is important to include family and caregivers.
- If an OUD is diagnosed, patients should be offered treatment including MAT.
- Healthcare providers, healthcare systems, pharmacists and pharmacies need to educate the entire practice/pharmacy about opioid overdose, naloxone, and stigma.
- Pharmacists can now prescribe naloxone to patients of any age in Maine
- Law enforcement officers in Maine are now carrying intranasal naloxone
- Naloxone Community Resources: Health Equity Alliance, Needle exchange programs, Greater Portland Health, Milestone home team, VA Maine Healthcare System (for Veterans)

Naloxone Information Resources:

- Teaching videos: <http://prescribetoprevent.org/>
- VA Academic Detailing and Training Videos
 - [Narcan NS nasal spray: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w-us7fQE3s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w-us7fQE3s)
 - [Naloxone nasal spray kit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoSfEf2B-Ds](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoSfEf2B-Ds)
 - www.pbm.va.gov/PBM/academicdetailingservice/Opioid_Overdose_Education_and_Naloxone_Distribution.asp
- College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists: <https://cpnp.org/guideline/naloxone>
- Maine Independent Clinical Information Service academic detailing naloxone info:
 - www.mainemed.com/sites/default/files/content/MICIS_Naloxone_Provider_110316%2002.pdf
 - www.mainemed.com/sites/default/files/content/MICIS_Naloxone_PatientFlyer_041416.pdf
- Wabanaki naloxone video: www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=jvJUqxTuS_Q