



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Pharmacists to Dispense Opioid Antidotes Under a Standing Order from the New Jersey Department of Health

1. What is a standing order to dispense an opioid antidote?

Pursuant to the Pharmacy Practice Act (N.J.S.A. 45:14-67.2) and the Overdose Prevention Act (N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1), a standing order to dispense an opioid antidote allows a licensed pharmacist in good standing in New Jersey to dispense an opioid antidote to a patient, someone at risk of an opioid overdose, or to a person who is not at risk of an overdose, but who, in an individual capacity, is able to administer the antidote to someone at risk of an opioid overdose. The Overdose Prevention Act allows the pharmacist to presume that the recipient is capable of administering the antidote.

Please note that under a standing order from the Department of Health, you may not dispense opioid antidotes to professionals who may need to use opioid antidotes in their professional capacity. For dispensing to professionals or first responders, you will need to obtain a standing order or prescription from a health care practitioner.

2. How do I apply for a standing order?

A pharmacist in good standing in New Jersey may request the standing order from the Department of Health by following directions found on this [webpage](#).

Pharmacists may also dispense opioid antidotes pursuant to a prescription or standing order from a physician pursuant to the Overdose Prevention Act.

3. How long does it take to get approved for a standing order?

Typically, less than a week.

4. What types of product does a standing order cover?

"Opioid antidote" means naloxone hydrochloride, or any other similarly acting drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for self-administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

5. Are there any special steps I need to take when dispensing an opioid antidote under a standing order from the Department of Health?

- Ask if the opioid antidote is for use by the person requesting the drug or to aid someone else who is at risk.
- If the drug is for the person making the request, then fill as any usual prescription, including the offer of counseling.
- If the drug is for a person who may administer the drug in an emergency, then set up a separate profile, similar to a veterinary prescription, for “caregiver” (or another similar consistent label), so that it is readily retrievable. You can place notes in the profile if you wish, but the drug should not be included in any drug utilization review and should not be processed through insurance.
- The law requires the pharmacist to comply with the Overdose Prevention Act requirements, including providing information on the proper use and administration of opioid antidotes. You may provide a link to the website of the Department of Health containing instructions for administration of opioid antidotes and training videos, found at this [link](#).

Be sure to note in the profile that the required information was provided with the dispensing.

6. How do I bill for an opioid antidote under a standing order from the Department of Health?

If the drug is for the person making the request, then follow the billing protocol for any usual prescription.

If the drug is for a person who may administer the drug in an emergency, please follow-up with that person’s insurance or manufacturer. You generally cannot process the prescription through that person’s insurance, but some forms of naloxone may be available to third parties with limited out-of-pocket expense through the manufacturer’s programs or insurance.

7. Does Medicaid accept a standing order in lieu of a prescription?

Yes.

Please see the [Updated Guidance for Pharmacists Dispensing Opioid Antidotes](#) for further guidance, which also provides information for pharmacists who obtain a standing order from a health care practitioner to dispense an opioid antidote and for pharmacists who are presented with a prescription for an opioid antidote.