



Personally Furnishing Naloxone by Emergency Medical Service Personnel

Updated 8/5/2022

The Board has received inquiries from emergency medical service (EMS) organizations asking if it is possible to provide naloxone to individuals who refuse transport after an overdose emergency.

EMS is permitted to personally furnish naloxone under Ohio law to any of the following:

- An individual who there is reason to believe is experiencing or at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.
- A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist an individual who there is reason to believe is at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

To do so, the EMS organization and personnel should follow these steps:

1. Update the organization's protocol to include the authorization for EMS personnel to personally furnish naloxone

Pursuant to the section 4731.941 of the Ohio Revised Code, a physician established protocol for personally furnishing naloxone must include all the following in writing:

- (1) A description of the clinical pharmacology of naloxone;
- (2) Precautions and contraindications concerning furnishing naloxone;
- (3) Any limitations the physician specifies concerning the individuals to whom naloxone may be furnished;
- (4) The naloxone dosage that may be furnished and any variation in the dosage based on circumstances specified in the protocol;
- (5) Labeling, storage, record-keeping, and administrative requirements;
- (6) Training requirements that must be met before EMS personnel will be authorized to furnish naloxone;
- (7) Any instructions or training that the authorized EMS personnel must provide to an individual to whom naloxone is furnished.



Personally furnishing naloxone can be conducted by any level of EMS personnel that meet the training requirements designated in the physician-approved protocol.

The Ohio Department of Health, in collaboration with the State Board of Pharmacy, have developed the following sample protocol for personally furnishing naloxone that can be accessed here:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/project-dawn/resources>

NOTE: A physician and a person authorized by the physician to personally furnish naloxone, acting in good faith, are not liable for or subject to any of the following for any action or omission of the individual to whom the naloxone is furnished: damages in any civil action, prosecution in any criminal proceeding, or professional disciplinary action (ORC 4731.941).

2. Comply with Board of Pharmacy labeling requirements

EMS personnel must comply with the labeling requirements of rule 4729:5-19-02

(<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-4729:5-19-02>).

This includes the following for naloxone:

- (1) The name and address of the prescriber (use the name & address of the prescriber who authorized the agency's protocol).
- (2) The name of the patient for whom the drug is intended. Naloxone must be personally furnished in the name of the person to whom it is provided.
- (3) Name and strength of the naloxone.
- (4) Directions for use.
- (5) Date furnished.

NOTE: These labels may be preprinted.

3. Comply with Board of Pharmacy recordkeeping requirements

The EMS agency must comply with the record keeping requirements for personally furnishing, to include:

The name, strength, dosage form, and quantity of the naloxone personally furnished, the name, and address (use EMS agency address if not provided) of the person to whom or for whose use the naloxone was personally furnished.

NOTE: This can be documented as part of the patient's medical record (i.e., the run sheet).

4. Instruct the person receiving the naloxone that they must summon emergency services

By law, EMS personnel (or any other authorized person) must instruct the individual to whom naloxone is personally furnished to summon emergency services as soon as practicable either before or after administering naloxone.