

Naloxone To GO

It's now easier than ever for hospitals and healthcare organizations to distribute naloxone directly to people that are likely to witness overdose.



Hand-to hand opt-out distribution gets naloxone to where it's needed most.

**For more information
Contact the Kentucky
Department for Public
Health Harm Reduction
Program at:
HarmReduction@ky.gov**

See reverse side for FAQs

How do we set up naloxone TO GO?

Why should hospitals and health care providers distribute naloxone?

Because healthcare providers work with people who need it! History of non-fatal overdose is a significant risk factor for subsequent fatal opioid overdose¹, and most bystander overdose reversals occur in private residences. Placing naloxone kits close to people at risk ensures that overdoses are reversed as rapidly as possible. This improves patient outcomes *and* reduces impacts on our systems of care.

How do we identify people that need naloxone?

People who use drugs are more likely than anyone else to witness an overdose². Offer naloxone to people who use drugs, their friends, and their families.

Often, people leave the hospital against medical advice following an overdose reversal. When people who use drugs are discharged following a longer hospital stay, their opioid tolerance may be decreased. These are good examples of increased risk for overdose death following hospitalization. However, any time you see a sign of substance use is a good opportunity to offer naloxone.

Where do we get naloxone to distribute?

Visit FindNaloxoneNowKY.org and click the "Ordering for an Agency?" button in the upper right corner. You'll be directed to answer a series of questions that will match your agency to the appropriate source of no-cost naloxone.

What are best practices for direct distribution?

Naloxone kits should be offered, without judgement, whenever you see any sign of substance use. Here, an opt-out, hand to hand approach is best.

"Ok, we've got you ready to go. Here's your naloxone kit and some information about using it."

This direct handoff is always more effective than a written prescription.

Are there legal guidelines that cover naloxone distribution in hospital settings?

In 2023, [201 KAR 2:360](#) was amended to clarify pharmacy naloxone distribution. This Administrative Regulation allows hospital pharmacies to provide naloxone to patients whenever discharge occurs and to record the prescription on the next business day.

Are we required to provide overdose response training?

201 KAR 2:360 requires making sure that someone who receives naloxone knows how to use it. Depending on context, training may be as simple as referencing the instructions on the package or passing along printed information. Training may include detailed demonstrations and time for questions, but extensive training should never be a barrier to receiving naloxone when a brochure or card would suffice.

Overdose response training materials including brochures, cards and a four-minute video are available at FindNaloxoneNowKY.org. You can download materials for printing from a zip folder at the bottom of the landing page or use the QR code below to direct people to the website.

1. Caudarella A, Dong H, Milloy MJ, Kerr T, Wood E, Hayashi K. Non-fatal overdose as a risk factor for subsequent fatal overdose among people who inject drugs. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2016;162:51-55.
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SAMHSA Overdose Prevention and Response Toolkit. Publication No. PEP23-03-00-001. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2023



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