



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
Board of Pharmacy
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark NJ 07102



JOHN J. HOFFMAN
Acting Attorney General

STEVE C. LEE
Acting Director

April 29, 2014

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45013
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6450

GUIDANCE FOR PHARMACISTS DISPENSING NALOXONE

On May 2, 2013, Governor Christie signed into law the Overdose Prevention Act (P.L. 2013, c. 46, N.J.S.A. 254:6J-1 et seq.) One of the purposes of the law is to reduce the number of opioid overdose deaths by making Naloxone, an opioid antidote, more widely available and accessible. The statute allows health care professionals to prescribe or dispense Naloxone, or similarly acting drugs, not only to patients who may be in danger of overdosing, but also to first responders, family members, caregivers, or peers who are not at risk for an opioid overdose but who, “in the judgment of a physician, may be in a position to assist another individual during an overdose.”

The Board will draft regulations to implement this new law. Until those regulations are published, the Board is issuing this guidance for licensees who are presented with a prescription for Naloxone or another similar-acting drug.

When presented with a prescription for Naloxone, you should:

1. Ask if the prescription is for use by the person whose name is on the prescription.
2. Document on the prescription that the question was asked along with the answer.
3. If the prescription is for the end user, then fill as any usual prescription, including the offer of counseling.
4. If the prescription is for a person who “may be in a position to assist another individual during an overdose”, then set up a separate profile, similar to a veterinary prescription, for “caregiver” or “first responder” so that it is readily retrievable. You can place notes in the profile if you wish, but the prescription should not be included in any drug utilization review. These scripts should not be processed through insurance. Counseling need not be provided, as the statute provides that the patient will receive information from the physician or other sources.

The Board recognizes that in accordance with the new law that pharmacists filling a prescription for Naloxone or other opioid antidote may rely upon the judgment of the physician and be assured that the requisite information was provided.