

Reversing Opioid Depression with Naloxone Hydrochloride

New requirements about offering naloxone HCl or similar FDA-approved medication, and overdose prevention education

Health Net Community Solutions, Inc. (Health Net) and CalViva Health are advising that, effective January 1, 2019, pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 2760, Section 2, § 740-742, prescribers must offer naloxone hydrochloride (HCl), or similar U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medication, for the partial or complete reversal of opioid depression to patients when certain conditions are present. Further requirements include educating patients about overdose prevention and how to use naloxone HCl, or similar medication, prescribed to help reverse opioid dependency.

- A prescriber is a person licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized to prescribe prescription medications.

Failure to follow the above requirements is an offense reportable to the appropriate licensing boards, California State Board of Pharmacy or the Medical Board of California, who can impose administrative sanctions.

QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

A prescription for naloxone HCl, or similar medication, should be offered when any of the following apply:

- Patient is receiving 90 or more morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day.
- Benzodiazepine is prescribed concurrently with an opioid medication.
- Patient has an increased risk for overdose, including a history of overdose, history of substance use disorder, or at high risk of returning to a high dose of opioid medication.

STANDARDS OF CARE

Part of the standards of care is discussing the use of prescribed medications with patients, especially a new medication. When prescribing naloxone HCl, or similar medication, there is an additional requirement to educate patients on medication overdose prevention and the use of the medication for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression. If the patient is a minor, the discussion on medication use and overdose prevention should be with the minor's parent or guardian.

Providers are encouraged to access the provider portal online at provider.healthnet.com for real-time information, including eligibility verification, claims status, prior authorization status, plan summaries, and more.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact CalViva Health at 1-888-893-1569.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO
MEDI-CAL PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

PROVIDER SERVICES

1-888-893-1569
www.healthnet.com