

PROVIDER Update



Health Net®
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

REGULATORY | NOVEMBER 16, 2018 | UPDATE 18-847 | 1 PAGE

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) is 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.

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact the Health Net Provider Services Center by email at provider_services@healthnet.com within 60 days, by telephone or through the Health Net provider website as listed in the right-hand column.

THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO
CAL MEDICONNECT
PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Participating Physician Groups
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

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