



# NC Naloxone Standing Order Frequently Asked Questions: Pharmacists Guide

*Under G.S. 90-12.7, pharmacists licensed by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy can dispense naloxone without a patient-specific prescription to eligible individuals or organizations pursuant to a statewide standing order, signed by the State Health Director.*

## Where can I get a copy of the standing order for naloxone?

The statewide standing order is available on the [NCBOP website](https://www.ncbop.org/) and [naloxonesaves-nc.org](https://naloxonesaves-nc.org).

## Am I required to report my pharmacy's participation in the statewide standing order?

Pharmacies dispensing naloxone under the statewide standing order are encouraged to notify the NC Division of Public Health by completing this [form](#) on [naloxonesaves-nc.org](https://naloxonesaves-nc.org). While this is not required, information is used to develop a publicly available [map](#) of all pharmacy locations providing naloxone access to individuals in NC.

## Who is eligible for naloxone through the statewide standing order?

- Persons who voluntarily request naloxone and are at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Specific risk factors are outlined in the statewide standing order.
- Persons who voluntarily request naloxone and are the family member or friend of a

person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

- Persons who voluntarily request naloxone and are in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose (i.e. law enforcement).

## Can I initiate a conversation with a patient about naloxone even though the standing order says that the patient must “voluntarily request” naloxone?

Yes. If the pharmacist identifies a patient whom they believe to be at risk of overdose, the pharmacist may initiate a conversation with the patient to determine if they would like to receive naloxone. If the patient indicates desire to obtain naloxone, they would be considered to have “voluntarily requested” naloxone under the standing order.

## Am I required to notify the patient's prescriber that I dispensed naloxone?

No.

## How do I process a prescription for naloxone under the standing order? Can I bill insurance?

Yes. Treat the standing order as you would any other prescription. Record keeping, documentation, and labeling requirements remain the same as other prescriptions, but you will select the State Health Director (listed on the standing order) as the prescriber for the prescription. NC Medicaid, many Medicare Part D plans, and some private insurances cover naloxone – copays vary on plan and formulation dispensed. Note, you may bill the insurance of the person purchasing naloxone, even if they may not be the end-user.

## How do I start a conversation with my patients about naloxone?

The American Pharmacists Association has an excellent resource on how to initiate a conversation about naloxone in a way that decreases stigma. It can be found at: [www.pharmacist.com/lets-talk-about-naloxone](http://www.pharmacist.com/lets-talk-about-naloxone). A [training video](#) is also available through the NC Association of Pharmacists.

## What type of patient education is required under the standing order?

Patients receiving naloxone under the statewide standing order of the State Health Director should receive education regarding:

- Risk factors of overdose
- Signs and symptoms of overdose
- How to respond to an overdose
- Administration of naloxone

(Pharmacies can contact [customerservice@adaptpharma.com](mailto:customerservice@adaptpharma.com) for demonstration devices of Narcan Nasal Spray®).

## Can I be held liable for dispensing naloxone?

No. Under [G.S. 90-12.7](#), pharmacists who dispense naloxone under the statewide standing order are immune from any civil or criminal liability.

## Does the statewide standing order expire?

No. The statewide standing order will be renewed or updated if there is a change in the State Health Director or if any relevant information regarding naloxone becomes available.

## Does dispensing naloxone enable drug use in my community?

No! Several [studies](#) have found that communities with naloxone distribution programs have shown no evidence of increased drug use.

## Where can I refer an individual for free/low-cost naloxone?

Many local health departments and syringe exchange programs offer naloxone at low/no-cost. You can find a list of health departments or syringe exchange programs offering naloxone in your county here: [naloxonesaves-nc.org](http://naloxonesaves-nc.org)

## Where can I find additional resources for counseling a patient on naloxone?

- [NaloxoneSaves-nc.org](http://NaloxoneSaves-nc.org) Patient Education Materials
- [College of Psychiatric & Neurologic Pharmacists Practical Guideline for Pharmacists](#)
- [North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition](#)

For any additional questions,  
please contact [naloxonesaves@gmail.com](mailto:naloxonesaves@gmail.com)

