

NALOXONE FAQs (OAR 855-019-0450 to 0460 & OAR 855-041-2330 to 2340)

Q: *How does the 2016 law differ from the 2013 law?*

A: The 2013 law allows a pharmacy to distribute naloxone to a trained person, pursuant to a certificate of training completion. Typically, these training programs are offered 'in-person' by an Oregon Health Authority (OHA) authorized person or organization. These trainings are still being offered and a pharmacy may encounter the naloxone certificates (see OAR 855-041-2330).

The new law, 2016 HB 4124 gives the pharmacist authority to prescribe naloxone and supplies to a person who conducts training and to a person who has successfully completed training. In conjunction with the rules adopted for this process (OAR 855-019-0460 and OAR 855-041-2340), the OHA developed a [written training](#). That means when a person seeking naloxone comes to a pharmacy that provides this service, but does not have a certificate, or if a pharmacist identifies a patient who would benefit from having naloxone co-prescribed with opiate therapy, the pharmacist can provide the written training for the person to review. The pharmacist can prescribe naloxone to the individual upon his or her determination that the individual seeking naloxone demonstrates understanding of the educational materials.

Q: *Who is considered an OHA authorized person or organization? And what proof is needed to validate the person/organization?*

A: An OHA authorized person or organization is one that serves people in high-risk populations, such as law enforcement, social services agency, needle exchange program, etc. A pharmacist shall use professional judgment to determine that they are prescribing and dispensing naloxone to an appropriate person. When issuing the prescription, utilize the instructor's name or the name of the organization (i.e. Corvallis Police Department).

Q: *What qualifications do I need in order to prescribe naloxone?*

A: A pharmacist educated in opiate overdose and naloxone rescue can prescribe unit-of-use naloxone and the necessary medical supplies to administer the naloxone. There is not a Board required training.

Q: *What does the Board expect for documentation when prescribing naloxone?*

A: The pharmacist must document the encounter and the prescription, and maintain record for three years.

Q: *What are counseling expectations related to prescribing naloxone?*

A: The pharmacist shall determine that the individual seeking naloxone demonstrate understanding of educational materials. The pharmacist must provide oral counseling to the authorized recipient, to include dose, effectiveness, adverse effects, storage conditions and safety. This consultation cannot be waived.

Q: *What naloxone can the pharmacist prescribe?*

A: An FDA approved formulation included in the OHA training (injectable, nasal spray, or nasal kit).

Q: *How many naloxone units can I prescribe per rx?*

A: The number varies. You can prescribe enough units for a person or organization to provide training, and use professional judgment when prescribing to a single individual. It is important to note that these prescriptions are considered the 'final dispensing' to the authorized recipient. When dispensing a number of units to a person or organization conducting training, they should be made aware that the units are only intended to be distributed to and utilized by the persons attending the training.

Q: *Can I bill insurance for naloxone?*

A: The Oregon Board of Pharmacy does not regulate billing. Please check with your outlet and contracts.