

Naloxone in Nursing Facilities: A Checklist for Process Review

Naloxone is a drug that reverses respiratory depression caused by opioid overdose. Having naloxone readily available in nursing homes is an opioid harm reduction best practice that can save lives.

The Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF) developed a checklist of questions to support nursing homes when using naloxone or evaluating existing naloxone policies and procedures. If you answer “No” to any of the questions below, meet with your clinical team to consider establishing a protocol or contact the COE-NF for assistance.

For more information on the use of naloxone or for coaching support in developing your naloxone program, contact the COE-NF at www.nursinghomebehavioralhealth.org.

Do you have naloxone in your emergency medication kit or dispensing machine for use in the event of an opioid overdose emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a process for checking the expiration date of the naloxone and replacing expired doses?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your facility have a process to execute non-resident-specific orders and protocols? Check your specific state and professional licensure regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your facility require a PRN naloxone order for each resident with an opioid prescription and/or history of substance use disorder?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do your residents with opioid and naloxone orders have applicable care plans for side effects, ADEs, and the possible need for naloxone?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you provide training that includes risk factors, signs of opioid overdose, when to use naloxone, naloxone administration, repeat dosing, and care planning for individuals with opioid and naloxone orders? (only answer Yes if all elements are included.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as part of your onboarding process for all staff and contract personnel • as part of your annual competency training 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have policies and protocols regarding the training, use of naloxone and assessment for naloxone use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your consultant pharmacist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review all orders for opioids for concurrent naloxone orders? - Know what naloxone product(s) is utilized in your facility? - Review your policy and procedure for naloxone for appropriateness? - Review your staff training for naloxone? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a protocol or policy to ensure any individual discharged with an opioid prescription also receives a naloxone prescription and naloxone education is provided in discharge instructions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No