



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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MARISSA J. LEVINE, MD, MPH, FAAFP
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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November 18, 2016

Dear Colleague:

As part of coordination efforts in declaring a drug addiction public health emergency, I am alerting you that I intend to issue a statewide standing order authorizing pharmacists to dispense naloxone in accordance with §54.1-3408 and the current Board of Pharmacy-approved protocol to persons seeking the drug effective November 21, 2016. A press release will be sent from the Virginia Department of Health on Monday, November 21, 2016 with a telebriefing being held at 10 am to inform the public of their ability to obtain naloxone from participating pharmacies. Therefore, I encourage you to prepare for patients coming into the pharmacy as early as Monday requesting naloxone.

The statewide standing order is attached and will be posted to the VDH Website. Pharmacists dispensing naloxone pursuant to this standing order must maintain a copy of this order on file for two years from the date of last dispensing. The order will be issued in accordance with the Board of Pharmacy-approved protocol and will authorize pharmacists to dispense either of the following:

2 naloxone 2mg/2ml prefilled syringes with two mucosal atomization devices;
Evzio auto-injector twin pack; or,
Narcan nasal spray.

Per the attached, board-approved protocol, pharmacists must counsel the individual in opioid overdose prevention, recognition, response, administration of naloxone, to include dosing, effectiveness, adverse effects, storage conditions, shelf-life, and safety. For more information on the board-approved protocol, please click here www.dhp.virginia.gov/Pharmacy/news/NaloxoneProtocolForPharmacists.pdf.

An attached Revive brochure developed by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services may assist you in counseling and must be provided to the individual when naloxone is dispensed. You can also download the brochure at www.dbhds.virginia.gov/library/substance%20abuse%20services/osas-revive-pharmacy-dispensing-brochure.pdf. Revive kits (without the naloxone) are available free from DBHDS by calling (804) 786-0464.

As we come together to celebrate the holidays, we are faced with the reality that the disease of addiction continues to worsen in the Commonwealth despite efforts on many fronts. Deaths from drug overdose are expected to increase 25% in 2016. I thank you, in advance, for preparing with me to address this public health emergency.

Sincerely,
Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP
State Health Commissioner