



# THINGS<sup>to</sup> KNOW

## References:

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3. MME calculators - <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/providers/health-topics/mme-calculator.page>

[https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating\\_total\\_daily\\_dose-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf)

4. Wilder CM, Miller SC, Tiffany E, et al. Risk factors for opioid overdose and awareness of overdose risk among veterans prescribed chronic opioids for addiction or pain. *J Addict Dis.* 2016;35(1):42-51. Doi: 10.1080/10550887.2016.1107264

Dunn KM, Saunders KW, Rutter CM, Banta-Green CJ, Merrill JO, Sullivan MD, et al. Opioid Prescriptions for Chronic Pain and Overdose: A Cohort Study. *Ann Intern Med.* 2010;152:85-92. doi:10.7326/0003-4819-152-2-201001190-00006

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## About Prescribing Naloxone

### 1: What are the benefits of naloxone?

- Naloxone is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression<sup>1</sup>
- Naloxone may be administered via IV, IM or intranasally

### 2: Why prescribe naloxone?

- Patients are often unaware that even at medically appropriate doses, opioids have significant risks
- Patients are often unaware that naloxone is a potentially life-saving agent that reverses respiratory and central nervous system depression
- Data suggests that despite statewide expanded access initiatives, naloxone is underutilized<sup>2</sup>
- Even with the available naloxone standing order, people may be more likely to obtain naloxone if a prescription is provided. Patients may also complete a short training and request mail-to-home naloxone at no cost by visiting the [PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs \(DDAP\) website](#).

### 3: How do people get naloxone?

- By having it prescribed by a clinician
- By using the standing order signed by PA Department of Health's Acting Physician General, Denise Johnson
- Using the Mail-to-Home Naloxone Program
  - This Standing Order is intended to ensure that PA residents who are at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose, or who are family members, friends or other persons who are in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose (Eligible Persons), are able to obtain naloxone.



Naloxone page on PA DDAP website



Mail-to-Home Naloxone Program