



PROVIDER ALERT

Naloxone

December 5, 2018

Dear Providers,

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) is a chronic medical condition. Research indicates that chances for recovery are better with the use of evidence-based treatments and long-term support that is tailored to individual needs.

A number of tools and resources are available to help address the issues of opioid abuse, addiction, and overdose. Naloxone is one option available to help save the lives of people diagnosed with OUD.

Naloxone, sold under the brand names Narcan and Evzio in the United States, is a medication used to block the effects of opioids, especially in overdose. Naloxone can be administered into the muscle, under the skin or intranasally. The duration of the effect of naloxone varies by administration route. Multiple doses may be required as the duration of action of most opioids is greater than that of naloxone. Follow-up emergency services will be required after administration.

In Idaho, naloxone can be prescribed and administered by physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants or pharmacists and additionally may be administered by First Responders (e.g., fire, police, EMS, ER), trained personnel on some high school and college campuses and some behavioral health providers. Family members and friends can also be trained to administer naloxone. Idaho Medicaid will reimburse for all dosage forms of naloxone except the Evzio product.

The Idaho Office of Drug Policy (ODP) website includes useful information on opioid use, misuse, and overdoses for all stakeholders.

The following key information can be found on the ODP website:

- **Opioids and Overdoses**
 - Naloxone Injection instructional video (**English, Spanish**)
 - Naloxone Nasal instructional video (**English, Spanish**)
 - Additional information on opioids
- **First Responder Naloxone Guide**
- **Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit (SAMHSA)**

Please take time to review the materials provided on the ODP website and learn more about naloxone. This medication may help save a member's life.

Thank you,

The Optum Idaho Team