

From: [Funk, Andrew \[IBPE\]](#)
To: [Jorgenson, Debbie \[IBPE\]](#)
Cc: [Witkowski, Terry \[IBPE\]](#)
Subject: FW: Naloxone
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015 1:49:52 PM

Debbie,

I don't want to go over-board with giving the Board FYI articles. But last legislative session, there was a push for this to occur in Iowa. It may be rather timely.

Terry, what do you think about including Dale's linked article?

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From: Witkowski, Terry [IBPE]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 12:38 PM
To: Woolery, Dale [ODCP]
Cc: Funk, Andrew [IBPE]
Subject: RE: Naloxone

Dale,

That is correct. Naloxone is a prescription drug and, as such, may only be dispensed by a pharmacy/pharmacist on the order of a qualified and authorized prescriber. Pharmacists are not authorized prescribers in Iowa and therefore cannot dispense naloxone without a prescription.

In most, if not all, of the states where pharmacists are dispensing naloxone without a prescription, the state law has either classified naloxone under a special classification of drugs that a pharmacist may dispense without prescription (i.e. pharmacist prescribing) or the law has been amended to specifically authorize the dispensing of naloxone without a prescription, something similar to pseudoephedrine in Iowa.

Therese (Terry) Witkowski

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The Iowa Board of Pharmacy promotes, preserves, and protects the public health, safety, and welfare through the effective regulation of the practice of pharmacy and the licensing of pharmacies, pharmacists, and others engaged in the sale, delivery, or distribution of prescription drugs and devices. Iowa Code § 155A.2(1).

From: Woolery, Dale [ODCP]
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Witkowski, Terry [IBPE]
Subject: Naloxone

Terry, This article seems to imply the Iowa Pharmacy Board, like many of its counterparts, does not have the authority under state law to permit the sale of Naloxone without a prescription. Is that accurate? Dale

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cvspharmacy-commits-to-creating-safer-communities-through-multiple-prescription-drug-abuse-prevention-efforts-2015-09-23-8183300>

CVS Will Sell Naloxone Without Prescription in 14 States

/By [JOIN TOGETHER STAFF](#)

SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2015

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CVS announced it will add 12 states to its program to sell the opioid overdose antidote naloxone without a prescription, bringing the total to 14. The company already sells naloxone without a prescription in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

“Over 44,000 people die from accidental drug overdoses every year in the United States and most of those deaths are from opioids, including controlled substance pain medication and illegal drugs such as heroin,” Tom Davis, Vice President of Pharmacy Professional Practices at CVS, said in a [statement](#). “Naloxone is a

safe and effective antidote to opioid overdoses and by providing access to this medication in our pharmacies without a prescription in more states, we can help save lives.”

The states included in Wednesday’s announcement are Arkansas, California, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin. According to [The Huffington Post](#), pharmacy boards in these states can make decisions about offering naloxone without a prescription.

“While all 7,800 CVS/pharmacy stores nationwide can continue to order and dispense naloxone when a prescription is presented, we support expanding naloxone availability without a prescription and are reviewing opportunities to do so in other states,” Davis said.

Use of naloxone kits resulted in almost 27,000 drug overdose reversals between 1996 and 2014, according to a [government study](#) published earlier this year. Providing naloxone kits to laypersons reduces overdose deaths, is safe, and is cost-effective, the researchers noted.

“U.S. and international health organizations recommend providing naloxone kits to laypersons who might witness an opioid overdose; to patients in substance use treatment programs; to persons leaving prison and jail; and as a component of responsible opioid prescribing,” the researchers wrote in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.



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