



# FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

*Honor, Integrity, Cooperation & Professionalism*

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 2, 2019  
**To:** Board Directors  
**Attn:** Mike Del Puppo  
President  
**From:** Fire District Staff  
**Subject:** Naloxone Distribution Project

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING PAPER

#### ISSUE:

CALFire and District employees are trained to administer Naloxone (NARCAN) but the District does not provide Naloxone on the apparatus.

#### BACKGROUND:

In Fresno County during 2017 there were 47 opioid overdose deaths, 88 opioid overdose emergency department visits and 99 opioid overdose hospitalizations. During 2017, there were 693,789 opioid prescriptions in Fresno County.

#### DISCUSSION:

In October 2018, the California Department of Health Care Services began providing free Naloxone (NARCAN nasal spray) through the Naloxone Distribution Project to qualified entities that have a California Health standing order. The District is a qualified entity and has a California Health standing order to administer Naloxone.

Staff is asking the Board to approve applying to the Naloxone Distribution Project for free Naloxone to carry on District apparatus and vehicles.

#### ALTERNATIVES:

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is to not consider participating in the Naloxone Distribution Project.

**IMPACTS** (Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas of concern for proposed alternatives):

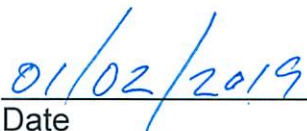
- Fiscal – No known impact
- Operational – No known impact.
- Legal – No known impact
- Labor – No known impact
- Sociopolitical – No known impact
- Policy – No known impact
- Health and safety – Lives may be saved by participating in the Naloxone Distribution Project
- Environmental – No known impact.
- Interagency – No known impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff is recommending that the Board of Directors approve staff applying for free Naxolone through the Naloxone Distribution Project. It is also recommended that any Board Member make a motion to approve applying to the Naloxone Distribution Project for free Naloxone.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh I. Chrisman, Assistant Chief

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Naloxone Distribution Project

## ABOUT

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to combat opioid overdose-related deaths throughout California.

The NDP aims to address the opioid crisis by reducing opioid overdose-related deaths through the provision of naloxone.

Starting October 1, 2018, qualified organizations and entities will be able to request FREE naloxone from DHCS.



## What is Naloxone?

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that works to reverse an opioid overdose while having little to no effects on an individual if opioids are not present in their system. Naloxone blocks opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of opioid overdose.

There are different ways to administer naloxone to an individual who is experiencing an opioid overdose. DHCS is making the nasal spray version available to qualified organizations and entities for FREE.

## How to Request Naloxone:

- ✓ Access the application through the DHCS website: <https://bit.ly/2w2Vx9f>
- ✓ Submit the application electronically or by mail for a minimum of 12 units of naloxone.
- ✓ For more information, contact [DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov) or visit the DHCS website: <https://bit.ly/2w2Vx9f>

## Eligibility

DHCS will provide FREE naloxone to organizations and entities eligible to administer or distribute naloxone through a California Public Health standing order. Examples include:



- ✓ First Responders
- ✓ Emergency Medical Services
- ✓ Fire Department
- ✓ Law Enforcement, Courts, & Criminal Justice Partners
- ✓ Veteran Organizations
- ✓ Homeless Programs
- ✓ Schools and Universities
- ✓ Religious Entities
- ✓ Community Organizations



**Naloxone Distribution Project**  
*Frequently Asked Questions*  
*December 2018*

**1. What is the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP)?**

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to combat opioid overdose-related deaths throughout California. The NDP aims to address the opioid crisis by reducing opioid overdose deaths through the provision of free naloxone, in its nasal spray formulation.

Through the NDP, qualified organizations and entities are able to request free naloxone from DHCS and have it directly shipped to their address.

**2. What is Naloxone?**

Naloxone is a life-saving medication that reverses an opioid overdose while having little to no effect on an individual if opioids are not present in their system. Naloxone works by blocking the opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of the overdose. Naloxone requires a prescription but is not a controlled substance. It has few known adverse effects, and no potential for abuse.

Naloxone is administered when a patient is showing signs of opioid overdose. The medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin), or by intravenous injection.

**3. What is NARCAN (naloxone HCl) Nasal Spray?**

NARCAN® Nasal Spray is a prescription medicine used for the treatment of an opioid emergency such as an overdose or a possible opioid overdose, indicated by signs of breathing problems and severe sleepiness or not being able to respond. NARCAN® Nasal Spray is to be given right away and does not take the place of emergency medical care. You can get additional information at <https://www.narcan.com>

**4. Can naloxone be used for a fentanyl overdose?**

Yes. Fentanyl is an opioid therefore naloxone can be used to reverse a fentanyl overdose.

**5. What types of organizations are eligible to apply for the NDP?**

DHCS will provide free naloxone to organizations and entities eligible to administer or distribute naloxone through a California Public Health standing order. Examples include:

- First responders
- Emergency medical services
- Fire authorities
- Law enforcement, courts, & criminal justice partners
- Veteran organizations
- Homeless programs
- Schools & universities
- Libraries
- Religious entities
- Community organizations

**6. What types of organizations are NOT eligible to apply for the NDP?**

The NDP is not intended for organizations that could otherwise seek reimbursement for naloxone. This includes substance use treatment providers (such as Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs), outpatient substance use treatment clinics, and residential treatment providers) and pharmacies. The program is also not intended to distribute directly to individuals. Some community organizations and other entities (see examples listed in question 5) may offer naloxone at low or no cost to individuals.

**7. What if I operate a harm reduction or community outreach program out of a hospital, FQHC or clinic?**

If you operate a harm reduction or community outreach program out of a health care site, please provide supplemental documentation to your application that explains the program, and how naloxone provided through the program will be kept separate from naloxone used in the health care site.

**8. How can community organizations and entities in California apply to use the NDP?**

If you would like to request free naloxone, complete the online application on the DHCS website: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Documents/NDP-Application-10.05.18.pdf>

The application includes instructions, as well as terms and conditions of participating in the NDP. In addition to filling out the application form and agreeing to the terms and conditions, organizations must also send:

- A copy of a valid and active business license, FEIN number or tax exempt letter.
- A copy of a naloxone standing order or physician's prescription.
- If the naloxone request is for more than 48 units, the organization/entity must provide a brief and comprehensive summary explaining why the quantity was requested and the plan for distribution.

Send the application and supporting documents to [DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov).

Applications that fail to submit all required documentation will be deemed incomplete and will result in application denial.

**9. Is it acceptable to include a P.O. box as the mailing address?**

No. FedEx (the shipping service utilized under this project) will not deliver the product to P.O. boxes.

**10. Can I apply on behalf of another program?**

No. Please have any eligible entities apply separately for the program.

**11. How much does it cost to obtain naloxone through the NDP?**

The product is free and is shipped directly to the qualified applicant.

**12. What is the minimum order that I can request through the NDP?**

There is a minimum of 12 naloxone units (two 4mg devices per unit) per order; 12 units in one case. Please order in increments of 12 – for example, if you want three cases, please fill in “36” under the “units order” box in the NDP application.

**13. Do I have to order in multiples of 12 units?**

Yes. Each shipping case contains 12 units of naloxone.

**14. What is the maximum order that I can request through the NDP?**

There is no maximum limit that an entity or organization can order. For an order over 48 units, you must provide a brief and comprehensive summary that justifies your request.

If DHCS has additional questions about the quantity of naloxone requested, they may reach out to the applicant and request additional information to substantiate the request.

**15. If DHCS denies an application, can the entity reapply?**

Yes. If your application is denied, you may submit another application. Follow the application instructions, and the terms and conditions to qualify to receive the free shipment of naloxone.

**16. If DHCS approves an application for a specific quantity of naloxone, can another application be submitted to request more naloxone?**

Yes. You may request more naloxone by submitting a new application to DHCS. Prior approval does not guarantee automatic approval of the secondary request for additional naloxone.

**17. What is the purpose of the naloxone standing order?**

The standing order was issued by the state Public Health Officer (authorized by California Civil Code Section 1714.22) to: 1) allow community organizations and other entities in California that are not currently working with a physician, to distribute naloxone to a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist; and 2) allow for the administration of naloxone by a family member, friend, or other person to a person experiencing or reasonably suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose.

For more information about naloxone standing orders, review this FAQ issued by the California Department of Public Health:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/CDPH%20Documents%20Library/Naloxone/Naloxone%20FAQs%20062118.pdf>

If your organization does not have a standing order, you may apply for one at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DCDIC/SACB/Pages/Naloxone-Standing-Order.aspx>

**18. Is training required to distribute naloxone?**

Yes. Staff of community organizations and other entities distributing naloxone under the NDP are required to receive opioid overdose prevention and treatment training, and are required to train individuals who receive naloxone from them. Minimum training requirements, and an example training resource, are included on the application information page:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/State-Targeted-Response-to-Opioid-Crisis-Grant.aspx>

For additional training resources, please visit <https://www.getnaloxonenow.org/> and <http://harmreduction.org/issues/overdose-prevention/tools-best-practices/manuals-best-practice/od-manual/>

**19. Are entities that receive free naloxone through the NDP permitted to sell naloxone?**

No. The NDP program was established to allow community organizations and other entities that are in possession of naloxone to distribute it, and to allow individuals that receive naloxone to administer it.

The product may only be used by the applicant and may not be submitted for reimbursement of any type, including and not limited to, private pay, commercial, government authority, agency, or otherwise.

**20. What are data reporting requirements for entities receiving naloxone through the NDP?**

Entities participating in the program agree to maintain and report information regarding the number of reversals that occurred using the naloxone to [DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov).

**21. Once an application is approved, how long does the applicant have to wait to receive the shipment?**

DHCS will contact you via email within four weeks of the date of receipt of application and confirm if your request has been approved or denied. The shipment will be mailed within four weeks of the date of approval of application.

**22. Can I return the product?**

No. The product is not returnable or refundable.



**23. What should I do if there are issues with my naloxone shipment?**

Please direct all questions regarding the product or shipment to [customerservice@adaptpharma.com](mailto:customerservice@adaptpharma.com)

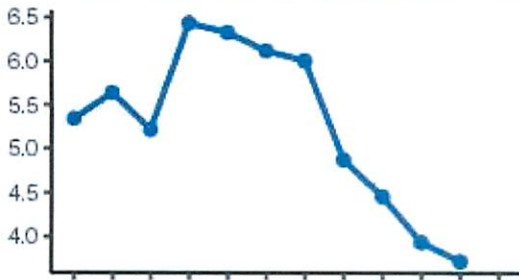
Please direct any questions regarding the application process to DHCS at [DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:DHCSMATExpansion@dhcs.ca.gov)

Fresno Opioid Overdose Snapshot: 2015-Q3 to 2018-Q2

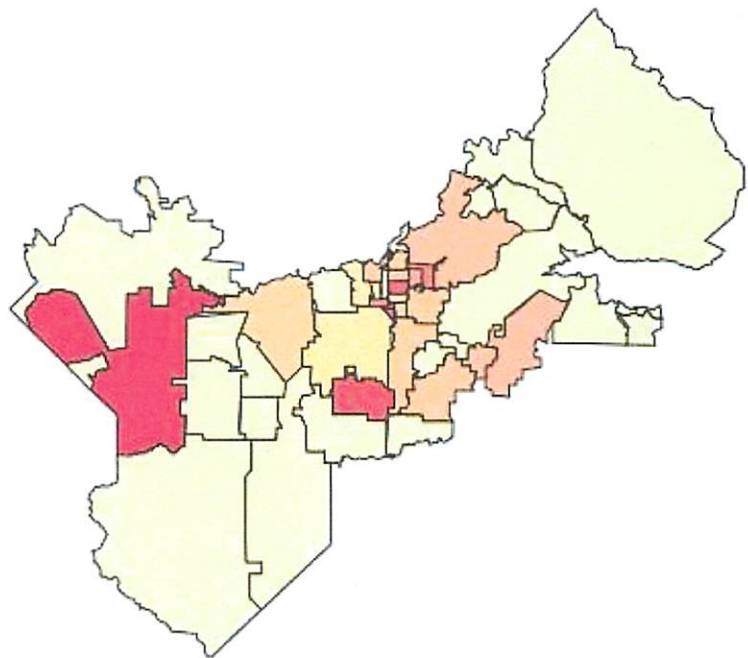
Report downloaded 01-02-2019

Fresno experienced 47 deaths due to all opioid-related overdoses in 2017, the most recent calendar year of data available. The annual crude mortality rate during that period was 4.3 per 100k residents. This represents a 42% decrease from 2015. The following charts present 12-month moving averages and annualized quarterly rates for selected opioid indicators. The map displays the annual zip code level rates for all opioid-related overdoses. Synthetic opioid overdose deaths may be largely represented by fentanyl.

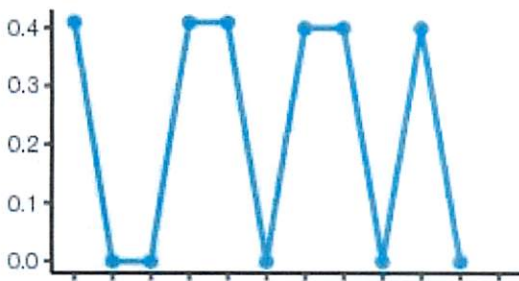
Prescription OD 12-Month Death Rates



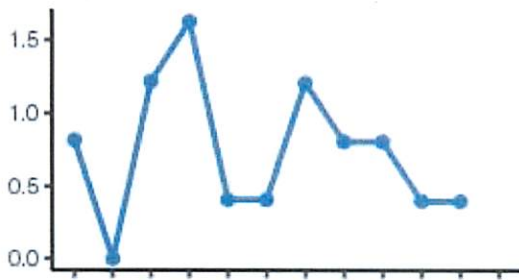
All Opioid Overdoses: 2017 Age-Adjusted Annual Death Rates by Zip Code



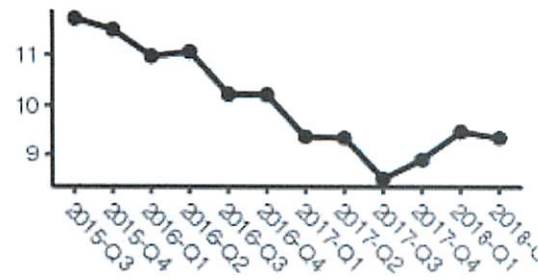
Heroin OD Qtrly Death Rates



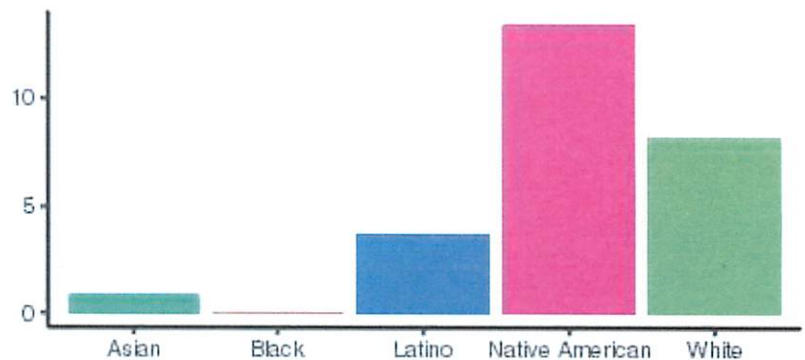
Synthetic OD Qtrly Death Rates



Opioid ED Visit 12-month Rates



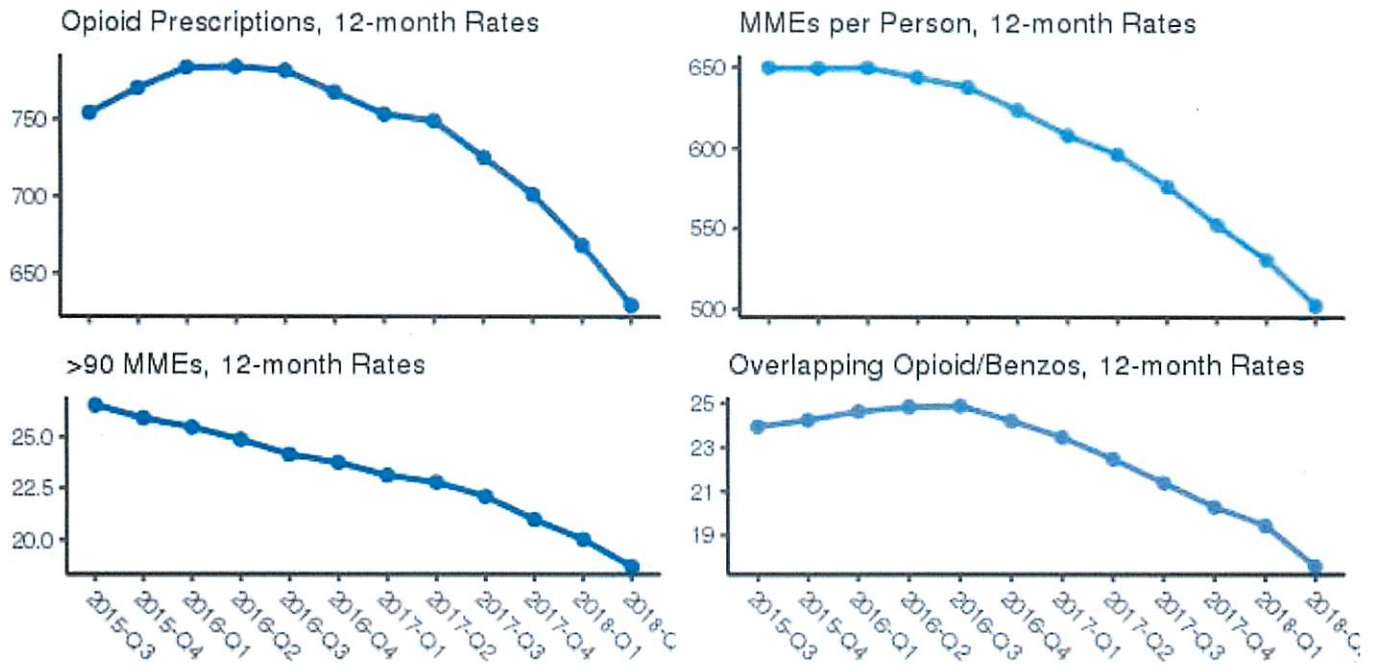
2017 All Opioid OD Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity



Footnotes: 12-month rates are based on moving averages; OD = Overdose; Qtrly = Annualized Quarter  
 Report produced by the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard - <https://cdph.ca.gov/opioiddasboard/>

### Prescribing

There were 693,789 prescriptions for opioids in Fresno in 2017, excluding buprenorphine. The annual prescribing rate during that period was 668.5 per 1,000 residents. This represents a 15% decrease in prescribing from 2015. The following charts present the annualized quarterly prescribing rates, MMEs (morphine milligram equivalents) per person per year, high dosage rate (i.e. greater than 90 Daily MMEs in the quarter), and the opioid/benzodiazepine overlap rate during 2017.



### Treatment

Buprenorphine prescriptions in the county are used to gauge the expansion of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The annual buprenorphine prescribing rate in 2017 was 6.3 per 1,000 residents. This represents a 26% increase in buprenorphine prescribing from 2015.



Footnotes: 12-month rates are based on moving averages; OD = Overdose; Qtrly = Annualized Quarter  
 Report produced by the California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard - <https://cdph.ca.gov/opioiddasboard/>



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**California Department of Public Health**



## Naloxone Standing Order

### Purpose

The purpose of this standing order is to help reduce morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdose by facilitating the distribution and administration of Naloxone Hydrochloride (Naloxone). Naloxone is an opioid antagonist indicated for the complete or partial reversal of opioid overdose, including respiratory depression, induced by natural and synthetic opioids. It may be delivered intramuscularly with a needle or intranasally. Naloxone is indicated for emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. It is not a substitute for emergency medical care.

This standing order authorizes:

Non-prescribing entities in California to distribute naloxone to individuals at risk of opioid overdose, their family members and friends, or other persons in a position to assist during an opioid-related overdose, who have completed an opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program.

The administration of naloxone received from the entity using this standing order to assist a person experiencing or reasonably suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose, by a family member, friend, or other person who has received opioid overdose prevention and treatment training from an opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program.

### Authority

This standing order is issued pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 1714.22 of the California Civil Code, which allows a licensed health care provider authorized to prescribe an opioid antagonist to issue a standing order for the distribution and administration of naloxone.

### Terms and Conditions

By submitting the online application form, the entity:

1. Certifies that the contact and location information provided on the online application form is correct.
2. Will ensure that any of its affiliates or subcontractors apply for their own standing order.
3. Agrees to allow the California Department of Public Health to contact the entity using the information provided on the application form.
4. Agrees to allow the California Department of Public Health to use the information provided on the application form to track the use of the standing order and conduct other public health and epidemiological surveillance activities.
5. Acknowledges that the standing order cannot be used to purchase or sell naloxone.
6. Agrees to ensure that entities and individuals receiving and administering naloxone receive opioid overdose prevention and treatment training as defined in this standing order.
7. Agrees to maintain and report information regarding the number of doses of naloxone distributed under this standing order at the time of renewal.
8. If known/available, agrees to maintain and report information upon renewal regarding the number of reversals which occurred using naloxone distributed under this standing order.
9. Agrees to re-apply for the standing order if there is a change in the information required on the online application form.
10. Agrees to maintain a copy of the standing order, which will include these terms and conditions.

### Definitions

A. "Non-prescribing entities" means organizations that do not employ or contract with a medical provider that has a license to prescribe and can issue a standing order and provide oversight for the distribution and administration of naloxone.

B. "Opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program" means any program operated by a local health jurisdiction or that is registered by a local health jurisdiction to train individuals to prevent, recognize, and respond to an opiate overdose, and that provides, at a minimum, training in all of the following:

1. The causes of an opiate overdose.
2. Mouth to mouth resuscitation.
3. How to contact appropriate emergency medical services.
4. How to administer an opioid antagonist.

Additionally, the training program should include how to recognize an opioid overdose. An example of an "overdose prevention and treatment training program" that is registered with or operated by a local health jurisdiction includes, but is not limited to:

1. Plumas County: <http://countyofplumas.com/index.aspx?NID=2477>

  
 State Health Officer Signature

FS7420970  
 License Number

Karen Smith  
 State Health Officer Name (print)

June 04, 2018  
 Date

June 04, 2019  
 Expiration Date

**Applying Entity Standing Order Information**

This Standing Order is issued for: FRESNO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Physical Address: 210 S. Academy, Sanger, CA 93657

Public Phone Number: (559) 493-4300

The entity agrees to all the terms and conditions specified in this Standing Order.

**Expiration, Renewal and Review**

This standing order will automatically expire one year from the date that it is signed by the State Health Officer or on the date that the physician whose signature is on the standing order has ceased acting as the State Health Officer, whichever comes sooner. The standing order can be renewed by completing another online application form. This standing order should be reviewed carefully against the most current recommendations, and may be revised or updated if there is new information about naloxone administration.