

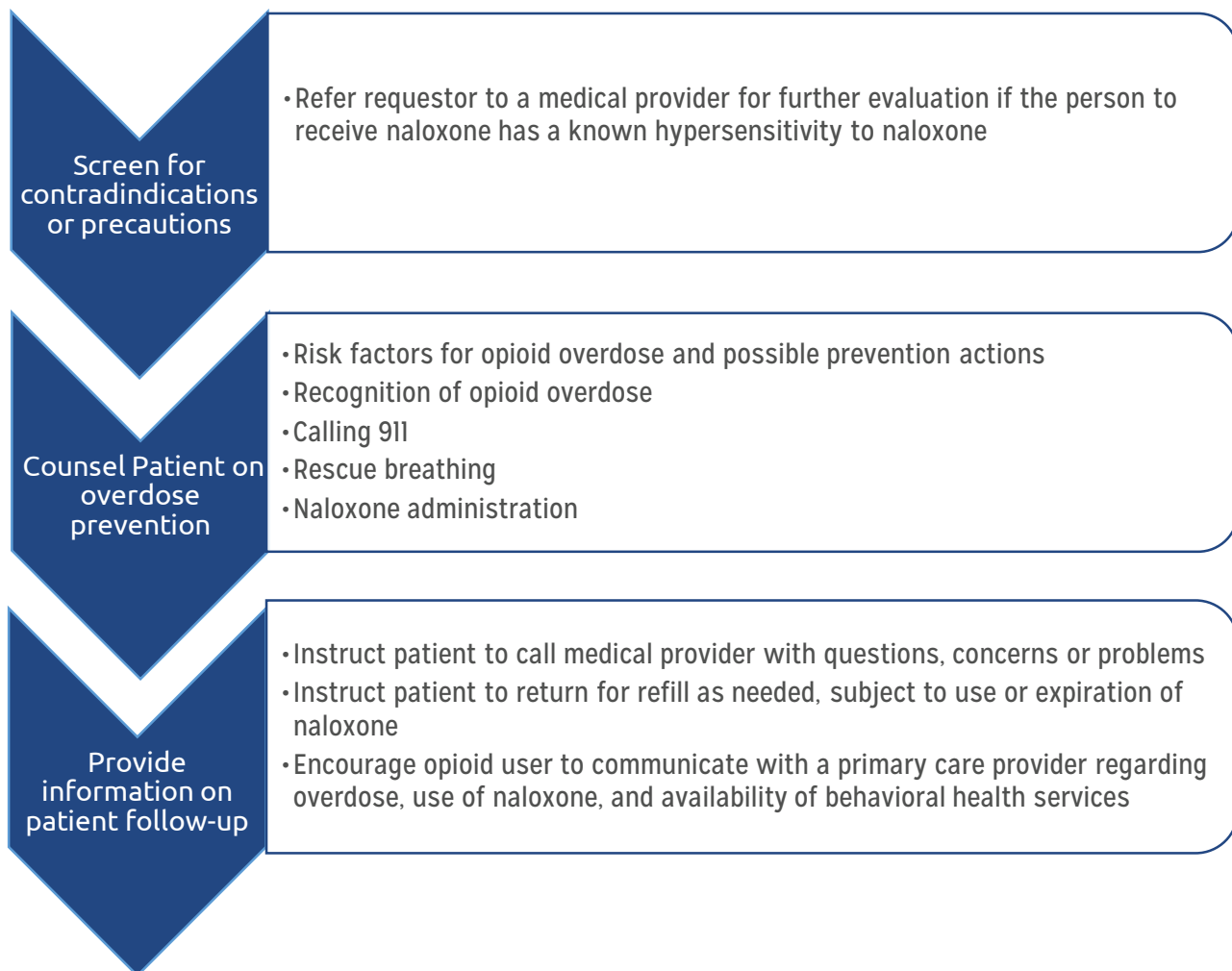
Naloxone: What pharmacists need to know

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws facilitating broader access to naloxone for overdose prevention. In Colorado, pharmacists can dispense naloxone to most Coloradans who need it, providing it through a standing order as authorized by Senate Bill 15-053 in 2015.*

Naloxone basics

- Naloxone, most commonly known as Narcan®, is available as a nasal spray (Narcan®) or injection (Evzio® and generics), is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent overdose death caused by opioids such as heroin, morphine, fentanyl, hydrocodone (Vicodin), and oxycodone (OxyContin, Percocet). Naloxone reverses an overdose by counteracting the effect opioids have on the central nervous and respiratory systems.
- Colorado's standing order protocol authorizes pharmacists to *dispense* naloxone to...
 - A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of overdose
 - An employee or volunteer of a harm reduction organization
 - A first responder
 - An individual at risk of overdose

Requirements for pharmacists when dispensing naloxone



FAQs specific to naloxone

Q: Can I dispense naloxone to a patient if they do not meet the criteria for a substance use disorder?

A: Yes, pharmacists can dispense naloxone to any patient who requests it, regardless of whether they meet the criteria for a substance use disorder.

Q: Does the Colorado Standing Order authorize pharmacists to administer naloxone, much like a vaccination?

A: No, the Colorado Standing Order authorizes pharmacists to dispense (i.e. sell) naloxone to the above-mentioned parties.

Q: Does a healthcare professional need to be present when naloxone is used?

A: No. Colorado law allows lay people to administer naloxone to a person with suspected opioid overdose without fear of prosecution of either themselves or the individual they are assisting.

Q: Can I bill insurance for naloxone?

A: Yes, naloxone prescriptions should be billed and processed the same as any prescriptions dispensed through your pharmacy.

Q: Is there an age restriction for filling a naloxone prescription?

A: No, there is no current age restriction in Colorado.

Q: Is there a limitation on how many naloxone doses may be purchased at once?

A: There are no specific limitations on how many naloxone doses may be purchased at once; if billing insurance, this may vary by insurance plan.

Q: Where can I find out more about naloxone?

A: The following websites are excellent resources for learning more about naloxone in Colorado:

- www.corxconsortium.org/naloxone
- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/naloxone/orders>
- For a training video on how to consult patients and watch case scenarios: <https://www.narcan.com/pharmacists/pharmacist-role>

FAQs specific to standing orders in the State of Colorado

Q: If I have a standing order from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, do I have to report any information to them about dispensing naloxone under the standing order?

A: At this time, having a standing order from the State of Colorado does not have any reporting requirement. All you have to do is request the standing order to get started.

Q: Does my standing order have to come from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment?

A: No, any medical professional with prescription authority can write a standing order for an organization on their behalf.

Q: What if I have a medical provider available to write a standing order but they are not a Medicaid provider, can I request one from the state of Colorado?

A: Yes, if you do not have access to a medical provider with Medicaid status you may request a standing order from CDPHE to help your patient population obtain naloxone covered by Medicaid.

Q: When do I have to update my standing order?

A: All standing orders issued by CDPHE are renewed on June 1, regardless of when the standing order was issued. You can request an updated standing order by email or the online form.

Q: I need to enter prescriber information for billing, how do I do that with a standing order?

A: Enter the prescriber info as you normally would with the information of the physician who authorized the standing order. At this point in time, all CDPHE standing orders are issued from Dr. Tista Ghosh:

Prescriber Information

Tista S. Ghosh, MD, MPH

Practice Location: 4300 Cherry Creek South Drive
Denver, CO 80246

NPI: 1992873988

PI: 9000165160

*Naloxone Standing Orders (2016, October). Retrieved from https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PW_Naloxone-standing-orders-template_Pharmacy.pdf