



MICHAEL L. PARSON, GOVERNOR • ROBERT J. KNODELL, ACTING DIRECTOR

TODD RICHARDSON, DIRECTOR
MO HEALTHNET DIVISION
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«Date»

«Pharmacy_Name»

«Pharmacy_Addr_Line1»

«Pharmacy_Addr_Line2»

«Pharmacy_Addr_City», «Pharmacy_State_Cd» «Pharmacy_Zip5»

RE: Preventing Overdose in Patients Using Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Dear «Pharmacy_Name»:

The purpose of this letter is to inform MO HealthNet pharmacies of an opportunity to improve patient safety for participants receiving MAT. Even in the absence of current opioid use, people with a history of overdose or substance use disorders and those being treated for opioid use disorder are at higher overdose risk due to a history of misuse and high-risk behaviors.^{1,2} The CDC and FDA recommend considering prescribing naloxone to all high-risk patients.^{3,4} National data indicates that less than 1% of these high-risk patients receive a naloxone prescription and as such, this remains an often missed area of opportunity to improve patient safety.⁴

Naloxone Indicator Summary	Number of Participants with Opportunities*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants with a history of MAT without naloxone in the past 2 years 	6,383

*Based on data through 09/15/2022

Information on dispensing naloxone for pharmacists licensed by the Missouri Board of Pharmacy can be found here: <https://pr.mo.gov/boards/pharmacy/NaloxoneStandingOrder.pdf>

At your earliest convenience, we ask that you evaluate the drug therapy for your affected participant(s). We acknowledge that there may be clinical variables influencing an individual participant's management that are not apparent in claims data or that a participant may have been inadvertently identified as being under your care. However, we believe the issues identified will assist you in caring for your participant(s). We thank you for reviewing this information and caring for MO HealthNet participants and welcome the opportunity to discuss any comments or concerns you may have about our quality management program. Please feel free to call our office at 1-866-923-7208 with questions or concerns

Sincerely,

Susan Abdel-Rahman, PharmD (Chairperson)
Sandra Bollinger, PharmD
Julie Ferguson, DO
Rick Kegler, PharmD
Jennifer L. Passanise, FNP-BC

Lisa Pierce, MD
Charlene M. Heyde, R.Ph.
Stacy Mangum, PharmD
Ginger Nicol, MD, CEDS
Kimberly Eisenstein, MD

Interpretive services are available by calling the Participant Services Unit at 1-800-392-2161.
Prevodilačke usluge su dostupne pozivom odjela koji učestvuje u ovom servisu na broj 1-800-392-2161.
Servicios Interpretativos están disponibles llamando a la unidad de servicios de los participantes al 1-800-392-2161.

AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

TDD / TTY: 800-735-2966

RELAY MISSOURI: 711

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References

1. Department of Health and Human Services. Naloxone: the opioid reversal drug that saves lives, how healthcare providers and patients can better utilize this life-saving drug. Available at: <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/sites/default/files/2018-12/naloxone-coprescribing-guidance.pdf>. Accessed 9/2022.
2. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMCS Informational Bulletin. Best Practices for Addressing Prescription Opioid Overdoses, Misuse and Addiction, January 28, 2016. Available at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-02-02-16.pdf>. Accessed 9/2022.
3. Dowell D, Haegerich TM, Chou R. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain — United States, 2016. MMWR Recomm Rep 2016; 65:1–49. DOI: Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6501e1er.pdf>. Accessed 9/2022.
4. FDA Drug Safety Communication: FDA recommends health care professionals discuss naloxone with all patients when prescribing opioid pain relievers or medicines to treat opioid use disorder. July 23, 2020. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-recommends-health-care-professionals-discuss-naloxone-all-patients-when-prescribing-opioid-pain>. Accessed 9/2022.

Based on submitted pharmacy claims data through month XXXX, the following individual has been identified with the issue listed below for your consideration. We understand that other relevant information may be required to evaluate this participant's therapy.

Pharmacy Name	«Pharmacy_Name»
Pharmacy ID	«Pharmacy_ID»
Participant Name	«Client_Last_Name», «Client_First_Name»
Participant D.O.B.	«Client_DOB»
Pharmacy Message	Underutilization– Naloxone According to submitted pharmacy and medical claims data, it appears your patient has recieved medication-assisted treatment and does not have a claim for naloxone in the past 2 years. Having a history of opioid use disorder increases the risk of opioid overdose, even if the patient is not currently receiving opiod therapy. Please review your patient's pharmacy claim history and consider adding naloxone therapy if it is appropriate by using the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' standing order for dispensing naloxone by pharmacists licensed by the Missouri Board of Pharmacy.