



TO: Pharmacy, Physician and APRN Providers
RE: Prescribing of Opioid Antagonists by Certified Pharmacists

Effective March 30, 2016, certified pharmacists who have received special training and certification to prescribe and dispense naloxone (brand name Narcan) may submit their NPI as the prescribing provider's NPI on claims submitted to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP).

Recent changes in legislation allow pharmacists who have been trained and are certified to prescribe naloxone, an opioid antagonist that blocks opiate receptors in the nervous system and can prevent death from overdose. Certified pharmacists will be able to prescribe and dispense select naloxone products to all HUSKY and CADAP members. Auxiliary products such as rescue breathing masks and latex gloves will not be covered.

When the certified pharmacist prescribing naloxone has not registered with NPPES for an individual NPI, the pharmacy dispensing naloxone may submit the NPI of the pharmacy as the prescribing provider's NPI on the pharmacy claim for naloxone. In that instance, the name of the trained and certified pharmacist must be clearly documented on the naloxone prescription. Verification of pharmacist certification will be done outside of the claim processing system via the Quality Assurance pharmacy audit process.

Please note:

Only Narcan 4mg Nasal Spray (NDC 69547-0353-02) and covered NDCs of naloxone syringe are reimbursable.

The nasal atomization device sold separately and used to administer naloxone is not covered by CMAP and claims submitted for this product will deny.

In addition, Evzio will not be covered through CMAP if written by a pharmacist. Since Evzio is subject to the Preferred Drug List (PDL), only an enrolled prescriber (not pharmacist or pharmacy) may submit a prior authorization request. At this time, Evzio 0.4mg Auto-Injector (NDC 60842-0030-01) is the only non-preferred naloxone.

Information regarding training and certification for pharmacist prescribers and dispensers of naloxone can be accessed by going to the Department of Consumer Protection's (DCP) Web site below: <http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?a=1620&pm=1&Q=570042>.

The new legislation does not permit pharmacists to issue a standing order for naloxone. The patient, a caregiver, or loved one must see the pharmacist in person to obtain a prescription and receive their medication.

The prescription should be dispensed with complete instructions on its use, as well as best practices on how to handle an overdose situation, along with referral information and resources about local substance abuse treatment.

For further information, please contact Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-842-8440.