



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner
617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

November 2015

In 2015, the Legislature passed the Municipal Naloxone Bulk Purchasing program so that municipalities may purchase Naloxone for municipal first responder agencies at a discounted rate. Naloxone, a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids, including heroin, is used across the Commonwealth by first responders. Municipalities have seen a significant increase in cost and demand since the beginning of the opioid epidemic.

Through the FY 16 budget, a Trust Fund was established to accept: (i) payments made by participating municipalities for the purchase of Naloxone; (ii) revenue from appropriations or other monies authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; and (iii) funds from public or private sources, including, but not limited to, gifts, grants, donations, rebates and settlements received by the commonwealth that are specifically designated to be credited to the fund. In August 2015, the Attorney General's office entered into a \$325,000 settlement agreement with Amphastar, which will be deposited into the Trust Fund.

With the trust fund now established, the State Office of Pharmacy Services (SOPS) will be able to pre-pay for Naloxone. Pre-paying will allow SOPS to purchase Naloxone at the price negotiated by the Commonwealth but SOPS will not have to store the product. Only when a state agency, municipality, or municipal first responder agency requests a supply from SOPS will the wholesaler ship the drug. The cost of Naloxone to a state agency, municipality, or municipal first responder agency will depend on the cost negotiated between the Commonwealth and the wholesaler. SOPS will also facilitate the purchase atomizers at the cost negotiated between the Commonwealth and the wholesaler.

The legislation establishing the trust fund authorizes the Department of Public Health to reduce the cost of naloxone for municipal first responder agencies below the negotiated SOPS purchase price. The discount below the purchase price is only available upon the receipt of additional funds into the trust fund (e.g. appropriations or settlements). Any state agency or municipality regardless of whether it is a first responder agency is able to purchase naloxone through SOPS at the cost negotiated between the Commonwealth and the wholesaler.

However, only first responder agencies will be eligible to purchase naloxone at the price discounted below the SOPS purchase price.

In order to be eligible for purchase of Naloxone through the State Office of Pharmacy Services (SOPS) a state agency or municipality will need to have a valid [Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration \(MCSR\)](#).

[Naloxone also is available for purchase via Statewide Contract MED38, which](#) is administered by the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division (OSD). However, only municipal medical facilities with a DEA and State licensed pharmacy may purchase Naloxone directly from this contract. OSD does not oversee the pharmacy elements of Naloxone purchasing, distribution, or dispensing/administration. Instead, the following guidance has been developed in consultation with the [Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#), the [Drug Control Program \(DCP\)](#) and the [State Office of Pharmacy Services \(SOPS\)](#), which oversee these elements.

Additional Resources

Refer questions for [State Office of Pharmacy Services \(SOPS\)](#):

- Edward Cavallari – Edward.Cavallari@massmail.state.ma.us 978-858-2153
- Beth Landers - Elizabeth.landiers@state.ma.us
- Alki Nacopoulos – alkiviadis.nacopoulos@state.ma.us
- Donald Rogers – donald.p.rogers@state.ma.us

Refer questions regarding the [Massachusetts Controlled Substances Registration \(MCSR\)](#):

- Jonathan Mundy- Jonathan.Mundy@state.ma.us

For information and questions regarding training for Naloxone contact:

- Sarah Ruiz- Sarah.Ruiz@state.ma.us

Refer questions about [Statewide Contract MED38](#) to Peter Etzel peter.etzel@state.ma.us.

To become a COMMBUYS purchasing organization reach the COMMBUYS Enablement Team at COMMBUYSEnablement@state.ma.us