



PHARMACY FACTS

*Current information for pharmacists about
the MassHealth Pharmacy Program*

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New Legislative Requirements for Opioid Reversal Drugs

An Act Relative to Treatments and Coverage for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Coach Licensure, [Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024](#), expands access to opioid reversal drugs (emergency opioid antagonists or EOAs) to enhance patient safety and address opioid-related overdoses. These measures aim to ensure broader access to life-saving opioid reversal drugs and enhance education and availability for at-risk patients. Key provisions include:

- **Hospital Requirements.** Hospitals must educate patients on EOAs and prescribe or dispense at least two doses of EOAs to patients with a history of overdose, opioid use, or opioid use disorder (OUD) upon discharge.
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Facilities.** SUD treatment facilities are required to educate patients on EOAs and dispense two doses of EOAs to patients upon discharge.
- **Pharmacy Requirements.** Pharmacies in areas with high incidences of overdoses must maintain a sufficient and consistent supply of EOAs. This includes stocking EOAs approved for over-the-counter sale in addition to those requiring a prescription. Pharmacies unable to comply due to insufficient supply must report to the Department of Public Health (DPH).
 - Although MassHealth generally requires a prescription before it will cover drugs, there is a standing order that allows pharmacists to dispense naloxone without an individual prescription. Please refer to the standing order for naloxone at www.mass.gov/doc/naloxonestanding-order-1/download and M.G.L. c. 94C, § 19B for further information.
 - MassHealth covers EOAs such as naloxone without cost-sharing or prior authorization.

Additional information regarding drug coverage can be found on the [MassHealth Drug List](#).