Text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**Number 246, June 12, 2025**

### **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](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2024/Chapter285), 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](https://www.mass.gov/doc/naloxone-standing-order-1/download?_ga=2.171497120.1497848064.1749564098-807226356.1738093693&_gl=1*l7ilxy*_ga*ODA3MjI2MzU2LjE3MzgwOTM2OTM.*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*czE3NDk1ODAwNzIkbzEwJGcwJHQxNzQ5NTgwMDcyJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..%22%20%EF%B7%9FHYPERLINK%20%22https://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](https://mhdl.pharmacy.services.conduent.com/MHDL/).