Note that pharmacy capacity and infrastructure will differ; these policies represent one approach to preparing staff and stores for responding to overdoses in the most timely and safest of ways.

In preparing policies for responding to overdose and naloxone administration onsite, it is important to establish the source of the naloxone and how to account for its use. Some locations may have the ability to create a universal patient code so that the store stock can be utilized; others may have stock set aside specifically for on-site use. Recording naloxone use post administration and replacing the stock will ensure its availability for future use.

***Sample Naloxone Policy & Procedure for On-Site Overdoses at a Pharmacy***

PURPOSE

To describe the steps to ensure proper procedures are followed for administering of Naloxone in an emergency situation on (store/pharmacy) premises.  The premises may include, but are not limited to:  parking lot, aisles, pharmacy waiting area, counseling room, or bathroom.

SCOPE

This policy and procedure applies to all (store/pharmacy) in states in which a standing order, Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA), or prescriptive authority guidance document has been issued by (store/pharmacy).

POLICY

Patient safety comes first. Pharmacists are highly skilled and trusted members of the community, and have the ability and essential medicines to respond in the unlikely event of an overdose on site.

 PROCEDURES

*Documentation procedures:*

The following procedures are to be followed for documentation after the event of administering naloxone. Report the event to your Store/Pharmacy Supervisor and to (other pharmacy group/operations, as needed). If naloxone from the pharmacy was used, the (other pharmacy group/operations organizer) will provide you a central patient profile to fill the naloxone prescription under.  The prescription will be filled using the CPA/standing order/prescriptive authority that is in place for the state.

*Unused medication and documentation\*:*

If the package came with multiple doses, and there are doses left that were unused, offer the unused dose to the patient to take home (or to the emergency medical professional to be kept with the patient, if the patient is not yet conscious).  If the patient or emergency medical professional declines, place in standard packaging used for pharmaceutical waste management and label the bag “NOT FOR CREDIT”.  While naloxone is not a controlled substance or hazardous waste, this process maintains compliance with inventory regulations.

*\* An alternative policy to unused naloxone:* If the package came with multiple doses, and there are doses left that were unused, place in standard packaging used for pharmaceutical waste management and label the bag “NOT FOR CREDIT”.  While naloxone is not a controlled substance or hazardous waste, this process maintains compliance with inventory regulations.

*Administration procedures:*

Pharmacists may become aware of medical emergencies, including drug overdoses, which arise on the pharmacy premises.  Pharmacists may respond to these events, rendering aid within their scope of practice of knowledge and training.  If a Pharmacist chooses to assist, they would be covered under the state’s Good Samaritan Laws.

·The Pharmacist must assess whether this is a life threatening emergency requiring activation of the 911 system.  If a life threatening emergency is underway, begin gathering supplies and respond to the patient. Alert staff immediately to call 911

·The Pharmacist should not put him/herself at risk of injury to render aid

·The Pharmacist should relinquish emergency care to any person with a higher level of training that arrives and agrees to assume control of care (e.g. bystander physician, EMS personnel, etc.)

·In the states of Rhode Island and Minnesota, a properly trained Pharmacy Colleague is required by law to assist if responding to an overdose situation

If an emergency event occurs after hours when the pharmacy is closed, a Pharmacy Colleague should respond with a call to 911 and CPR, to their level of training. If a store naloxone kit is available, it should be administered to the victim according to the instructions above.

*After event*

Good employee health is important to everyone. This is a rare event, and may be upsetting. Employees should feel welcome to check in with each other about the event and, if needed, to seek resources from the employee assistance program.