

BENEFIT NEWS

WVCH: Naloxone Formulary Coverage

May 21, 2018

WVCH Narcan Coverage: Removing barriers to this life saving medication.

Members are able to access any of these formulary options through the pharmacy benefit. Prescribers can write a prescription, and patients can fill these at any network pharmacy. The goal of adding these to the WVCH formulary is to provide rescue access to those on opiate therapy and those at risk of opioid overdose. No restrictions are in place, such as quantity limits, to reduce barriers in accessing these products.



“We provide a naloxone prescription each time we prescribe opioids. It’s to help keep our patients and their family members safe.”

- WVCH Provider

WVCH Formulary Options Include:

1. Naloxone 0.4mg/mL syringe
2. Naloxone 1mg/mL syringe
3. Naloxone 0.4mg/mL vial
4. Narcan (naloxone) 2mg spray
5. Narcan (naloxone) 4mg spray

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WVCH: Helping A Community In Crisis

- In 2000, The Oregon Health Authority reported that 73 people died of opioid related causes in the state of Oregon. By 2011, there were 332 opioid related deaths.
- Efforts to target patients using opioids and the providers writing opioid prescriptions have helped to decrease this number to 263 deaths in 2015. A key factor in reducing this number is the availability of Naloxone.
- Naloxone or Narcan can be administered as an antidote for morphine, heroin, oxycodone or fentanyl overdoses and is proven to save lives.
- First responders in the Willamette Valley such as Salem Police, Oregon State Police, Polk County Sheriff and Woodburn Police now carry naloxone to administer in suspected overdose cases, but they are not always available. For this reason, naloxone nasal spray and injection have been made widely available to the community.
- Oregonians are able to obtain naloxone without a prescription, due to House Bill 3440, and providers are encouraged to pair any opioid prescription with a prescription for naloxone.
- The US surgeon general recently issued a nationwide advisory for Americans to keep naloxone on hand and undergo training on administration as more than half of opioid overdose deaths occur at home.

Sources are:

The Oregon Health Authority's Oregon drug overdose reports

Oregon prescription drug overdose, misuse and dependency prevention plan

Statesman Journal article : "Oregon police agencies adding opioid overdose antidote to toolbox"

The surgeon general advisory [hhs.gov](https://www.hhs.gov)

Questions:

Contact WVCH Customer Service 503-584-2150 or the WVCH Pharmacy Department at 503-371-7701.

View the current WVCH Formulary at WVCHHealth.org on the For Providers page.