The Pharmacist’s Role in Expanding Naloxone Access

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Learning Objectives

◆ At the end of this presentation the participant will be able to:
  • Identify national and local roles for pharmacists in expanding naloxone access
  • Understand the benefits of establishing a pharmacy relationship
  • Strategize for barriers in working with pharmacies
Pharmacist Training

◆ PharmD: As of 1997, all pharmacists complete a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program.
◆ Residency training: Many pharmacists also complete 1-2 years of postgraduate residency training
◆ Board certification: BCPP
Pharmacist Expertise

Trained in

- Pharmacology
- Pharmacokinetics
- Drug-drug, drug–disease state interactions
- Optimization of medication adherence

Engage patients in treatment by providing information regarding the benefits and expected adverse effects, thus empowering patients to participate in decision making.
Naloxone Legislation

As of July 2015, 41 states and DC have legislation which make it easier for medical professionals to prescribe and dispense naloxone

• AL
• AR
• CA
• CO
• CT
• DC
• DE
• FL
• GA
• ID
• IL
• IN
• KY
• LA
• MA
• MD
• ME
• MI
• MN
• MS
• NC
• ND
• NE
• NH
• NJ
• NV
• NY
• OH
• OK
• OR
• PA
• RI
• SC
• TN
• TX
• UT
• VA
• VT
• WA
• WI
• WV

National Pharmacists Naloxone Access Models

- Traditional Dispensing*
- Standing Order*
- Collaborative Practice*
- Protocol order/Pharmacist Prescriber
Traditional Dispensing

- Physician writes the Rx
- Pharmacist fills the Rx

  - Educate patients about narxone benefits, administration and side effects
  - Identify appropriate patients for naloxone
    - Opioid use disorder and mental illness
    - High dose opioid
    - Chronic opioid Rx
    - Multiple at risk Rx (opioid, BZD)
Standing Order (SO) Model

“A written instruction issued by a medical practitioner that authorizes a specified person or class of people, who do not have prescribing rights, to administer and/or dispense naloxone to a patient who may be unknown to the prescriber at the time of the order”

- Allows for a patient’s timely access to medicines
- Eliminates need for hand-written, faxed, or phoned prescription
- Collaborative model

As of October 2015,

- MD or Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) employed by HD or teach/supervise ORP training can issue a SO

- SO authorizes a trained RN employed by HD or an employee or volunteer authorized to conduct educational training to dispense naloxone

- Any licensed healthcare provider who has dispensing authority may dispense naloxone to a certificate holder in accordance with a SO
Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM)

- Defined by American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
- Collaborative practice agreement between >1 physicians and pharmacists
  - Qualified pharmacists working within the context of a defined protocol
  - Assume professional responsibility
    - Patient assessments
    - Ordering laboratory tests
    - Administering drugs
    - Selecting, initiating, monitoring, continuing, and adjusting drug regimens

https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/whitePapers/CDTM%20CMM%202015%20Final.pdf
Components of CDTM Application in MD

- Physician-Pharmacist Agreement
- Pharmacist Information Form
- Drug Therapy Management Protocol
- Therapy Management Contract
Scope of Pharmacist’s Activities

- Serve as a physician extender
- Interview patient
- Review existing medical records
- Physical assessment (i.e. vital signs, mental status exam, neurological exam)
- Order and interpret laboratory tests
- Determine patient’s drug-related problems and unmet needs
- Modify, or continue drug therapy regimen
- Provide patient education
- Monitor for diversion
Maryland Naloxone and CDTM

Pharmacists are explicitly authorized to dispense Naloxone in accordance with a therapy management contract.
Benefits of Working with Pharmacist

- Dispense naloxone
  - Storage/labeling
  - Reinforce education about naloxone and overdose
- Identify patients who should receive naloxone prescriptions
- Serve as a medication information resource for healthcare professionals
- Monitor for diversion
- Resolve naloxone procurement and insurance issues
Barriers

- Billing and reimbursement
  - Cash
  - Medicaid
  - Private insurance
  - Patient vs Bystander

- Purchasing
  - Availability
    - Shortage vs not stocked
  - Ordering
    - Naloxone
    - Atomizer

- Stigma
Questions/Considerations

- What barriers are you facing working with pharmacists?
- Could pharmacists be better utilized in your program?
“STANDING ORDER” MEANS A WRITTEN INSTRUCTION FOR THE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF NALOXONE TO A CERTIFICATE HOLDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 13–3108 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

Any licensed health care provider with dispensing authority is explicitly authorized to dispense Naloxone to a certificate holder in accordance with a standing order issued by a licensed physician.

Additionally, pharmacists are explicitly authorized to dispense Naloxone in accordance with a therapy management contract.

Further, licensed physicians, advanced practice nurses with prescribing authority, and pharmacists are not subject to any cause of action arising from any act or omission when they prescribe or dispense Naloxone and the necessary paraphernalia in good faith and according to statutory requirements.