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DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: May 11, 2022

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 22-025

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Hospital Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Requirement for Naloxone or Any Other Opioid Antagonist Used for the Reversal of an Opioid Overdose in Licensed Residential Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery or Treatment Facilities: Implementation of Assembly Bill 381 (AB 381)

PURPOSE: To provide guidance about the requirement for licensed SUD recovery or treatment facilities to carry naloxone and train staff on its use, per passage of AB 381, which went into effect on January 1, 2022.

REFERENCE: [Chapter 437, Assembly Bill 381](#) (Health and Safety Code Section 11834.26)

BACKGROUND:

AB 381, in part, amends Health and Safety Code (HSC) 11834.26 to require alcoholism or drug abuse (also known as substance use disorder (SUD))¹ recovery or treatment facilities licensed by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to maintain, at all times, at least two (2) unexpired doses of naloxone hydrochloride (naloxone), or any

¹ This BHIN uses “SUD” as preferred clinical terminology, consistent with the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, medical societies, professional organizations, recovery advocates, and [federal guidance](#) regarding the use of non-stigmatizing, person-centered language.

other opioid antagonist that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of an opioid overdose.

Naloxone is a safe and effective antidote for opioid poisonings and has been administered by lay responders to save thousands of lives. In the case that no opioids are present, naloxone has no pharmacological effects and therefore can be safely administered even when the cause of the intoxication is not completely known. Common routes of administration by lay responders are by intranasal spray and intramuscular injection.

POLICY:

AB 381 (HSC, Section 11834.26) requires DHCS licensed SUD recovery or treatment facilities to comply with the following requirements:

- (1) Maintain, at all times, at least two unexpired doses of naloxone, or any other opioid antagonist medication that is approved by the FDA for the treatment of an opioid overdose, on the premises of the licensed SUD recovery or treatment facility.
- (2) Have at least one staff member, at all times, on the premises who knows the specific location of the naloxone, or other FDA-approved opioid antagonist medication, and who has been trained in its administration. Training shall include review of online resources and the [National Harm Reduction Coalition's Opioid Overdose Basics](#) website to respond effectively to an opioid-associated overdose emergency. Staff shall certify that they have reviewed and undergone training in opioid overdose prevention and treatment.
- (3) The proof of completion of such training shall be documented in the staff member's individual personnel file, in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 9, Section 10564(k).

COMPLIANCE:

The licensed SUD recovery or treatment facilities shall demonstrate compliance with the amendments to HSC, Section 11834.26. Any licensed SUD recovery or treatment facility that fails to adhere with this information notice shall be cited effective July 1, 2022.

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RESOURCES:

[DHCS Naloxone Distribution Project \(NDP\)](#) – distribution of free naloxone to providers, first responders, and other organizations.

[National Harm Reduction Coalition's Opioid Overdose Basics](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit](#)

[Naloxone Training Video](#) – how to use naloxone nasal spray.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Janelle Ito-Orille, Chief
Licensing and Certification Division