



# Monterey County Behavioral Health Policies and Procedures

<b>Policy Number</b>	702
<b>Policy Title</b>	NARCAN Distribution: Non- Emergency
<b>References</b>	None
<b>Effective</b>	December 21, 2023

## Policy

The purpose of this policy is to create guidelines for the non- emergency distribution of NARCAN throughout Monterey County Behavioral Health directly operated programs.

The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and administered by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to combat opioid overdose-related deaths throughout California. The NDP aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths through the provision of free naloxone, in its nasal spray formulation. NARCAN refers to the intranasal formulation of the opioid antagonist used for the acute treatment of opioid overdose. NARCAN Nasal Spray is used for known or suspected opioid overdose in adults and children. Due to the current opioid epidemic combined with the rise in fentanyl use, Monterey County has had a surge in overdose and poisoning deaths. NARCAN for distribution will be exclusively ordered through the NDP as long as the program through DHCS continues.

## Procedure

1. Obtaining and Maintaining NARCAN:
  - a. Monterey County Behavioral Health Medical Assistants will be responsible for obtaining NARCAN through the Department of Health Care Services Naloxone Distribution Project and tracking and distributing NARCAN to Monterey County Behavioral Health operated programs.
  - b. NARCAN and the instruction sheet can be obtained by emailing program assigned Medical Assistant. This email request will include the following information:
    - i. Monterey County Behavioral Health unit/program
    - ii. a contact person
    - iii. number of requested doses
  - c. NARCAN is not required to be stored within a medication room. However, it will be stored within a secured location until distributed to client.
  - d. Monterey County Behavioral Health Medical Assistants will maintain a spreadsheet that includes inventory, tracking of NARCAN and the number of doses provided to each unit in Monterey County Behavioral Health.
  - e. NARCAN has a shelf life of approximately 3 years. Each NARCAN unit

contains an expiration date prominently displayed on the packaging. Medical Assistants should request new supply prior to expiration so that additional units may be obtained.

Please note: Contracted providers should request NARCAN through the DHCS NDP at: [https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD\\_YV/NDP/DHCS-5280.pdf](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_YV/NDP/DHCS-5280.pdf)

2. Distribution to clients:
  - a. NARCAN can be offered to any clients during contact in the field, during office appointments, and during crisis contacts.
  - b. All NARCAN will be provided at no cost to clients.
  - c. Each client can obtain up to two (2) boxes containing two (2) doses in each box during each contact. Staff will not separate the two doses in each box. All boxes provided to clients must include an instruction sheet for each box. The instructions provided direct a person to call 911 and then administer the antidote, NARCAN.

## Definitions

- I. **Naloxone:** A life-saving medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose while having little to no effect on an individual if opioids are not present in their system. Naloxone works by blocking the opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of the overdose. Naloxone administered intramuscularly or intravenously requires a prescription. It has few known adverse effects, and no potential for abuse.
- II. **NARCAN:** Nasal spray formulation of Naloxone, that does not require a prescription, to be used for the treatment of an opioid emergency such as an overdose or a possible opioid overdose, indicated by signs of breathing problems and severe sleepiness or not being able to respond. NARCAN Nasal Spray is to be given right away, but does not take the place of emergency medical care.