Overdose deaths in North Dakota increased from 20 deaths in 2013 to 68 deaths in 2017.

Naloxone competitively binds opioid receptors and is the antidote to acute opioid toxicity. With proper education, patients on long-term opioid therapy and others at risk may benefit from a naloxone prescription.

Consider prescribing intranasal spray or auto-injector naloxone to patients who are:

- Taking high doses of opioids for long-term pain management
- Receiving rotating opioid medication regimens (at risk for incomplete cross-tolerance)
- Using opioids for legitimate medical need, coupled with a suspected or confirmed history of substance use disorder or non-medical use of prescription or illicit opioids
- Using a combination of opioids plus a benzodiazepine or other sedative
- Combining opioids with alcohol, OTC, or other central nervous system depressants
- Recently released from incarceration or an abstinence based program (and presumably with a reduced opioid tolerance and high risk of relapse)
- On certain opioid preparations that may increase risk for opioid overdose such as extended release/long-acting preparations

Prescribing naloxone is consistent with the drug’s FDA-approved indication, resulting in no increased liability so long as the prescriber adheres to general rules of professional conduct.

You are protected under North Dakota law:

North Dakota offers immunity from civil and criminal liability to individuals who prescribe, distribute, dispense, receive, possess, or administer an opioid antagonist under North Dakota Century Code 23:01-42.

Most private health insurance plans, Medicare, and Medicaid cover naloxone for the treatment of opioid overdose.

NALOXONE PRESCRIBING FOR PHARMACISTS IN NORTH DAKOTA

Prescribing naloxone is a vital link in preventing overdose deaths from opioid pain medications and heroin.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO BECOME A NALOXONE PRESCRIBER


2. Complete one of the available training programs:
   • Boston College and SAMHSA Program: http://www.opioidprescribing.com/naloxone_module_1-landing
   • College of Psychiatric & Neurologic Pharmacists: https://cpnp.org/guideline/naloxone
   • California Society of Addiction Medicine: http://www.csam-asam.org/naloxone-resources
   • Prescribe to Prevent Videos for Pharmacists, Prescribers and Patients: http://prescribetoprevent.org/video/
   • Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration SAMSHA: http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Opioid-Overdose-Prevention-Toolkit-Updated-2016/SMA16-4742

3. Sign up as a trained pharmacist by visiting the ND Board of Pharmacy website: www.nodakpharmacy.com/naloxone.asp. Signing up allows the public to access you and your pharmacy when needing a prescription.
