

Aaron's Law/SEA 406 Fact Sheet

What is Naloxone?

Despite its long history as a highly effective intervention in opioid-related overdose emergencies, most of the general public have never heard of Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) and don't have a clear understanding of the role this **"miracle drug"** can and should play in reducing the rate of opioid overdose death.

Is Naloxone safe?

- Naloxone has absolutely no effect on a person who has not taken opiates.
- Naloxone is **not a controlled substance** and has no potential for abuse.
- Naloxone is safe, effective, and easy to administer. The American Medical Association, the CDC, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA) have called for Naloxone to be made widely available and strongly encourage local, state, and federal policymakers to provide funding and resources for Naloxone based overdose prevention programs that have been proven to dramatically decrease overdose mortality rates.

If Naloxone is so harmless, why is it available by prescription only?

The FDA has declared that it cannot change the prescription-only status of Naloxone absent a petition from one of the drug's manufacturer or a citizen petition (which appears to be infeasible), even though there is not medical basis supporting the need for a prescription.

How does Aaron's Law (SB 406) broaden Naloxone access in light of the federal prescription barrier?

Aaron's Law makes Naloxone more widely available to first responders, community-based organizations, public health agencies, and lay (nonmedical) persons who may be able to intervene in an overdose emergency by:

- Encouraging prescribers to write and pharmacists to fill prescriptions for Naloxone to "third party" individuals. A "third party" is a person who is not the intended recipient of the prescribed medication.
- Explicitly enabling various types of agencies to obtain, carry, and distribute Naloxone by adopting clarifying language that allows entities to operate under "standing orders" from the prescriber making it possible for Naloxone to be obtained by multiple agencies or multiple individuals under a single prescription.

overdose Lifeline, Inc.

- Proving civil immunities for bystanders to overdose emergencies who administer Naloxone in good faith (and call 911) to persons experiencing opiate overdose.

NOTE: Contrary to common criticisms of overdose prevention, persons who have been saved by Naloxone are more likely to seek treatment and medical help for their chronic disease. This is a lifesaving medicine, not an instrument to enable continued use. Prescribers and agencies must provide training and information on local treatment options to all persons wishing to receive Naloxone.

Grant opportunities for First Responders and other Agencies are available through Overdose Lifeline, Inc. – visit <http://www.overdose-lifeline.org>

Special Thanks to Senator Jim Merritt, The Attorney General's Prescription Drug Task Force (BitterPill.IN.GOV) and The Indiana Coalition for Prevention and Treatment for their work for Indiana's Families and Communities

About Overdose Lifeline, Inc.

Overdose Lifeline, Inc. is a non-profit working on behalf of individuals with the disease of addiction and their families to assure adequate resources and support exist.

The mission of Overdose Lifeline is to carry the message of HOPE to individuals, families, and communities affected by addiction. We envision a time when addiction does not carry a stigma in society but instead is provided the attention and care required of a chronic disease. To realize that vision, Overdose Lifeline is working on behalf of addicts and their families to assure adequate resources and support exists.

Visit overdose-lifeline.org to learn about our programs and initiatives and how you can become involved in helping others.

Visit overdose-lifeline.org for more information and resources