



## Guidance for a Naloxone Protocol in a School Setting

### Why is a naloxone protocol necessary? Why not standing orders?

The use of protocols or standing orders is widely misunderstood in public health and school nursing. Some school health programs have been using "standing orders" for years -- but standing orders are patient-specific, and the use of naloxone (opioid antagonist) for an overdose emergency is not.

The fact is that patient-specific orders are not an efficient mechanism for Registered Nurses (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in schools to provide emergency medication for a population of people who may experience an overdose with no legal prescriber on site. Nurses in schools need another mechanism to do this. That mechanism was added to the Minnesota Nursing Practice Law in 1995. It is called "prescription by protocol." [Minnesota statute section 148.235, Subd. \(8\)](#). This allows RNs to implement a protocol that results in a prescription of legend (prescription) drugs for administration, including naloxone, based on conditions (as opposed to being based on specific patients.) LPNs under this statute can only administer vaccines using a condition specific protocol. In order, to authorize LPNs to administer naloxone using a condition specific protocol [MN 151.37 Subd 12 \(d\) Legend Drugs: Who May Prescribe, Possess](#) was amended.

Effective July 1, 2023

The addition to 151.37 Subd 12 (d) now allows the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to administer naloxone in the school setting using a condition specific protocol.

[151.37 Legend Drugs; Who May Prescribe, Possess](#)

Subd 12 (d) was added which states: *Notwithstanding section 148.235, subdivisions 8 and 9, a licensed practical nurse is authorized to possess and administer according to this subdivision an opiate antagonist in a school setting.*

The [Minnesota Board of Nursing](#), on their website explains this law. The Board of Nursing is responsible for interpreting the nursing law -- not the Minnesota Department of Health. It is in the best interest of nurses to work toward compliance with the nurse practice act.

### Do protocols need to be re-signed annually?

Legally, no. There is no law requiring that these protocols be re-signed annually by the licensed medical prescriber. However, the Minnesota Board of Nursing suggests, as a standard of practice, that they be reviewed, updated if necessary, and re- signed annually.

Next steps.

MDH School Health Services has developed a naloxone protocol template that school may wish to use, and the steps needed to adapt a protocol. Questions can be directed to [Health.school.health@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.school.health@state.mn.us)

The following table describes each element of naloxone protocol template and steps needed to create or adapt a protocol for use by nurses in schools.

Definitions	Steps to take to adopt protocols
<b>Condition-specific protocol:</b> The condition for which requires emergency medication.	✓ This has already been included in the naloxone template.
<b>Criteria:</b> The parameters/boundaries by which the RN can proceed to administer naloxone, based on the screening and assessment. Criteria are organized by indications, contraindications, and precautions.	✓ This has been included in the naloxone template. ✓ A licensed prescriber must review the criteria and actions and determine the appropriate action to be prescribed for the specific school.
<b>Indications:</b> Persons or groups that are or are not included to receive naloxone.	✓ This has been included in the naloxone template. ✓ Make sure all the indications for which you will administer Naloxone are included in the protocols.
<b>Contraindications:</b> Most standard contraindications found in the <a href="#">FDA Highlights of Prescribing Information for Naloxone</a>	✓ This has been included in the naloxone template. ✓ Review this section to determine if you have any specific contraindications for your school setting.
<b>Precautions:</b> Conditions that the RN should be aware of related to overdose and the administration of naloxone.	✓ This has been included in the naloxone template. ✓ Review this section to determine if you have any specific precautions for your school setting.
<b>Actions prescribed:</b> Instructions for the nurse when the person meets or does not meet the criteria. Those listed in the template are suggested actions that might be typical.	✓ This has been included in the naloxone template. ✓ Review this section to determine if you have any specific actions for your school setting.

Definitions	Steps to take to adopt protocols
<p><b>Prescription:</b> Must be a pre-determined prescription and include all the elements that any prescription would require.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the naloxone template.</li> <li>✓ Verify that these elements are included in protocol prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The name of the drug</li> <li>○ The dosage of the drug</li> <li>○ The route of administration</li> <li>○ The timing (schedule) of the drug</li> <li>○ Any special instructions that apply to the drug</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Medical emergency</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Overdose and the administration of naloxone are a medical emergency. 911 must be called and the person transferred to a higher level of care.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions or concerns</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fill in the contact information for your medical director (prescriber) or designee.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Signature</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fill in the name of prescriber.</li> <li>✓ Have the licensed medical prescriber sign and date the naloxone protocol.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Formatting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ You can customize to add your own headers and footers</li> <li>✓ You can customize to add your School Name or Logo</li> <li>✓ You need to add your document review dates</li> <li>✓ Once completed you should delete the paragraph in #3.</li> <li>✓ You must complete #4 with your medical prescriber</li> <li>✓ You must complete #6.</li> <li>✓ To remove the "Sample Protocol" watermark on the protocol template: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Go to Design and click on Watermark and then click on Remove Watermark.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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