Starting a Take-Home Naloxone (THN) Program
Discuss current overdose status in WA
Setting up a CDTA
Regulatory issues
Billing and Reimbursement
Identifying Patients and patient education
State of the State

Deaths due to Opioid Overdoses, WA

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Death Certificates
State of the State

Deaths due to Drug Overdoses & Motor Vehicle Accidents, WA

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Death Certificates
Implementation Checklist

- Determine scope of program (dispense vs. prescribe)
- Training for staff (Pharmacists, technicians, assistants)
- Check availability and pricing of products available
- Order supplies (as appropriate)
  - Naloxone
  - Rescue Breathing Masks
  - Rescue kit bags
- Prepare demo kit
- Sign-up for naloxone locator (info@stopoverdose.org)
- Ensure you have patient education materials
- Prepare materials informing patients/prescribers you have THN
Intramuscular (IM)

Evzio™ auto-injector

Intranasal (IN)

Narcan™ Nasal Spray
Prescribing take-home naloxone

- **CDTA key components**
  - Patient Scope - “anyone at risk of having or witnessing an overdose”
  - Procedure
    - Patient Assessment of Understanding
    - How are prescribing decisions made for naloxone
    - Overdose response training
      - 5 essential Steps
      - Scope/intensity of training can be left to pharmacist discretion
    - Documentation of training/prescribing
    - Prescriber Signature
Billing & Reimbursement

- Counseling & Screening Time
  - Anywhere from 5 minutes to 30 minutes

- Product
  - 4 different options, highly variable in price and coverage

- Other costs in kit (Generally not covered by insurance)
  - Breathing masks
  - Atomizers (For the naloxone 1mg/ml PFS)
  - Bags
Who covers Naloxone?

- **Medicaid**
  - HCA requires all Medicaid managed care plans to cover 1 naloxone kit per year WITHOUT a prior authorization - effective May 1st, 2016

- **Medicare**
  - Not covered

- **Commercial Insurance**
  - Inconsistent coverage across plans and carriers
Understanding the legislation around Naloxone
Good Samaritan Law

On June 10, 2010, Washington state enacted the “911 Good Samaritan” law (ESB 5516), which provides immunity from drug possession charges in drug overdose situations and expands access to naloxone, a prescription drug that reverses overdoses caused by opioids. The law authorizes any person to obtain and use naloxone, given the fulfillment of certain requirements, and authorizes any person to administer naloxone to a qualifying third party.
Good Samaritan Law

- Does NOT protect against outstanding warrants or possession with intent to sell
A practitioner may prescribe, dispense, distribute, and deliver an opioid overdose medication: (i) Directly to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose; or (ii) by collaborative drug therapy agreement, standing order, or protocol to a first responder, family member, or other person or entity in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Any such prescription or protocol order is issued for a legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of professional practice.
Engaging patients
Who should get naloxone?

Washington State Agency Medical Directors’ Group - 2015

- Mental Health disorder per DSM 5
- Family or personal history of substance use disorder
- Medical condition that could increase sensitivity to opioid-related side effects (e.g. impaired respiratory function, sleep apnea, high fall risk, altered drug metabolism related to advanced age or impaired renal, hepatic and/or cardiac function)
- Current use of benzodiazepines
- Tobacco Use
Anyone at-risk of witnessing an overdose
Patient Education
Framing the Conversation

- Avoid judgement
- Opioid = High Risk Medication
  - It’s not about the patient, it’s about the drug
Patient Education

- What is an overdose
- Overdose risk factors and prevention
- 5 Essential steps for responding to an overdose
- Hands-on naloxone training (demo)
- Good Samaritan law
5 essential steps for responding to an overdose
• Step 1: Check for Signs of Opioid Overdose
• Step 2: Call for Help (Dial 911)
• Step 3: Support the Person's Breathing
• Step 4: Administer Naloxone
• Step 5: Monitor the Person's Response
Resources

- www.stopoverdose.org
- www.prescribetoprevent.com
- www.samhsa.gov