



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

March 22, 2012

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Department of Health

Dear Dr. Banta-Green, Mr. Webb, Dr. Coffin, and Dr. Sabel:

Thank you for your presentation to the Board of Pharmacy (board) on the Public Health, Seattle-King County (PHSKC)'s 'PRO Project' – Preventing and Reversing Overdoses. The Board is in supports of your efforts made to reduce the number of opioid-related deaths in Washington State.

We were encouraged to learn about the success other cities and states have experienced with the use of inhaled naloxone. With the enactment of RCW 69.50.315 that provided immunity to persons administering naloxone to an overdosed person, the Board worked with PHSKC to develop a naloxone collaborative drug therapy agreement. Providing to a lay person prescription medication to administer in an emergency situation is unique, if not controversial. A collaborative agreement allows pharmacists to educate 'friends' of potential opiate overdose victims and provide them with naloxone. High risk people such as individuals using a needle exchange are targeted for prevention treatment.

The training and education on overdose prevention and naloxone administration includes:

- Overdose prevention techniques
- Rescue breathing
- Recognition signs and symptoms of overdose
- Call 911
- Naloxone storage, carrying, and administration
- Airway and breather assessment
- Post-overdose follow-up and care

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The board values programs similar to the PHSKC's PRO Project and encourages the use of CDTAs to make available the life-saving potential of naloxone in preventing and reversing opiate overdoses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan T. Boyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan T. Boyer, MS, RPh, FASHP

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Executive Director, Washington State Board of Pharmacy

cc: Jeff Rochon, Washington State Pharmacy Association
Maxine Hayes, Department of Health
Christopher Barry, Chair, WSBOP