

# PROVIDER Update

wellcare

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Reduce Overdoses and Save Lives With These Programs and Resources

**Hospitals and emergency departments are in a key position to offer interventions.**

Every day, there are more than five fatal drug-related overdoses throughout Los Angeles County, driven largely by fentanyl and methamphetamine use.<sup>1</sup>

### Act now: Tips for hospitals and emergency departments

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) requests hospitals take part in the following system-wide activities to mitigate the ongoing overdose crisis:<sup>1</sup>

- **Identify and engage people who use drugs** who are in the emergency department and hospital.
- **Prescribe naloxone**, an opioid overdose reversal medication, to take home for patients who use substances and are at-risk for overdose.
- **Distribute naloxone** to caregivers, visitors and other community members who are at-risk for overdose or who are positioned to reverse overdoses using naloxone.
  - Naloxone prescriptions often go unfilled at community pharmacies. Community distribution of naloxone, outside of the pharmacy supply, is authorized at hospitals and medical clinics.
  - No-cost, non-pharmacy supplies of naloxone can be obtained from the California Department of Health's Naloxone Distribution Project. To apply, go to [www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD\\_YV/NDP/DHCS-5280.pdf](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_YV/NDP/DHCS-5280.pdf).
- **Provide timely treatment** for patients with opioid use disorder with medications, such as buprenorphine or methadone.
  - Eligible prescribing clinicians can sign up online to obtain a Drug Enforcement Agency X-waiver. The waiver permits treating up to 30 patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder outside of the hospital at the same time without an added training requirement.

### THIS UPDATE APPLIES TO MEDICARE PROVIDERS:

- Physicians
- Independent Practice Associations
- Hospitals
- Ancillary Providers

### PROVIDER SERVICES

866-999-3945

### PROVIDER PORTAL

[provider.wellcare.com/california](http://provider.wellcare.com/california)

### Discover Helpful Tools to Support Your Office

Go to [wellcare.com/California](http://wellcare.com/California) to quickly access information to help you in your everyday interactions with Wellcare. The site includes:

- The Provider Manual
- Provider newsletters
- COVID-19, D-SNP and monkeypox (MPX) resources
- Provider bulletins
- Forms
- And more!

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- **Apply for funds** to support care navigation with the California Department of Health Care Services' CA Bridge Behavioral Health Navigator Program. Emergency departments can apply for \$120,000 for substance use disorder care navigators to engage patients and refer them to needed addiction, mental health and social services. To apply, go to [cabridge.org/solution/our-work/ca-bridge-navigator-program](http://cabridge.org/solution/our-work/ca-bridge-navigator-program).
- **Refer patients to specialty substance use disorder treatment services** managed by the DPH's Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC), which offers medications and other types of addiction treatment to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and low-income individuals who do not have insurance.<sup>2</sup>

### Resources for clinical and administrative leads<sup>1</sup>

The following chart lists resources for hospital clinical and administrative leaders.

Program	URL
<b>California Department of Health's Naloxone Distribution Project</b>	Apply at <a href="http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_YV/NDP/DHCS-5280.pdf">www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD_YV/NDP/DHCS-5280.pdf</a> .
<b>CA Bridge Behavioral Health Navigator Program</b>	Apply for funding at <a href="http://cabridge.org/solution/our-work/ca-bridge-navigator-program">cabridge.org/solution/our-work/ca-bridge-navigator-program</a> .
<b>DPH-SAPC specialty substance use disorder treatment system</b>	Learn more at <a href="http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc">publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc</a> . DPH-SAPC works with the CA Bridge Program and a coalition of hospitals and emergency departments across the County that are applying these recommendations. DPH-SAPC is available as a resource to advance the provision of this lifesaving care to people in the community.

### Additional information

If you have questions regarding the information contained in this update, contact 866-999-3945.

<sup>1</sup> Information taken or derived from Hospital Overdose Prevention letter to hospital administrators. Director Barbara Ferrer, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health. September 7, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Any transfer of information or data between providers about a member's opioid use disorder or substance use disorder must first be authorized by the member before transferring the information or data between providers.