



**New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene**

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Dear Pharmacy Professional,

In 2016, more New Yorkers died from drug overdose than homicides, suicides and motor vehicle crashes combined. Eighty percent of overdose deaths involved an opioid. These deaths are preventable. As part of HealingNYC, the City's effort to address the rising epidemic of opioid overdose deaths, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is working with communities and partners to prevent overdose deaths with naloxone.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that reverses the effect of an opioid and prevents fatal overdose. New York State law allows trained community members to carry and use naloxone as a first aid response to an overdose. In New York City (NYC), the Health Department issued a standing order that authorizes licensed pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a patient-specific prescription.

As a pharmacist, you are uniquely positioned to educate patients about overdose prevention and dispense naloxone to those at-risk and to their friends and family. You can make a powerful impact on the health of your patients and NYC by implementing these small changes:

- Sign up for the NYC standing order so that your pharmacy can dispense naloxone without a prescription.
- Offer naloxone to at-risk patients, including those who receive chronic opioid therapy (for three months or longer); high-dose opioid prescriptions (100 or more daily morphine milligram equivalents); or concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions, as well as those who purchase syringes through the Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP).
- Educate patients on how to use naloxone. You can also recommend the Health Department's free Stop OD NYC app, which provides information on recognizing and responding to an overdose.

This **Naloxone Action Kit** includes clinical tools and resources for your pharmacy and educational materials for your patients. To access these materials online or download the Stop OD NYC app, visit nyc.gov/health and search for "naloxone."

Thank you for your dedication to the health of New Yorkers, and for your partnership in reversing this epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary T. Bassett".

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
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