



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

September 16, 2025

HCLA: AFH #2025-038
HCLA: ALF #2025-036
HCLA: CCRSS #2025-019
HCLA: ESF #2025-024
HCLA: ICF/IID #2025-011

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES AND KEEPING NALOXONE (NARCAN) IN STOCK

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

This Dear Provider Letter (DPL) supersedes DPLs AFH: #2019-020, ALF: #2019-019, CCRSS: #2019-009, ESF: #2019-009, and ICF/IID: #2019-009.

Residential Care Services (RCS) wants to remind facility providers of the importance of resident/client safety and having **naloxone** (a medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose) in long-term care facilities, including for those who are prescribed painkillers.

In 2019, the Department of Health (DOH) issued a **statewide standing order** in accordance with [RCW 69.41.095\(5\)](#), which authorized the use of naloxone **to any eligible person or entity**. This [standing order was updated April 22, 2024](#). As a result, long-term care programs have participated in the naloxone standing order program, and are administered to residents/clients when appropriate.

RCS strongly recommends keeping naloxone in the facility/home in an event of an emergency for when an opioid is prescribed or based on the history of the resident/client. A facility and its providers *are required to meet the needs of all of its residents/clients, including in emergency situations*. If the facility or its provider seeks to use the statewide standing order and purchase naloxone:

- Naloxone can be administered by anyone. This task does **not** require nurse delegation.
- Naloxone can be stored on the premises of a facility, home, or provider office.
- Agencies/facilities/providers must have written policies and procedures on the proper response to an opioid-related overdose and administering naloxone.
- Written instructions are available at: www.doh.wa.gov/naloxoneinstructions.
- Agencies/facilities/providers must follow the informed consent process by ensuring staff members honor a resident/client's wish not to take certain medications.
- Staff members are shielded from civil or criminal liability if they act in good faith when administering this drug.

RCS Provider Letter: **LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES AND KEEPING NALOXONE (NARCAN) IN STOCK**

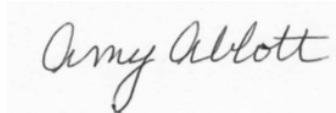
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- Entities seeking to use the statewide standing order to receive and dispense naloxone must contact DOH by emailing naloxoneprogram@doh.wa.gov. DOH will notify entities if any changes are made to the order.
- If a resident/client has a specific order for naloxone, the facility or provider must follow the specific facility entity regulations regarding medications. Facility/home requirements for naloxone's use and availability depend on the resident/client population, medications prescribed, negotiated service agreements/care plans/treatment plans, and emergency preparedness.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident/client health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager or RCSpolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services
DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Attachments: [Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution](#) (Department of Health Resource)