



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

August 4, 2017

Dear Registered Program:

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute is implementing a new Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program (N-CAP) on August 9, 2017.

For individuals with prescription coverage through their health insurance plans, this program will cover the cost of co-payments for naloxone up to \$40 **so there are no or lower out-of-pocket expenses** when accessing naloxone at participating pharmacies. All Medicaid Managed Care Plans cover at least one formulation of naloxone, and the vast majority of private insurance plans also cover naloxone.

There are 2,000 pharmacies throughout the State who dispense naloxone with a physician standing order. Individuals getting naloxone at these pharmacies do not need a prescription. They simply need to ask for it at the pharmacy counter and present their insurance information as they do for any other medicine. They do not need to enroll in N-CAP. Maximizing pharmacy distribution will allow individuals increased access to naloxone. Pharmacies are open evening hours and weekends, and have multiple locations. Refills can also be obtained from any of the 2,000 participating pharmacies.

For a directory of pharmacies with standing orders, please access the link below:

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/opioid_overdose_prevention/directories.htm

This directory is updated monthly.

N-CAP is not meant to replace the vital role that registered programs play in opioid overdose prevention. Our intention is to offer an additional access point where individuals can obtain naloxone with no or lower out of pocket expenses if they have prescription coverage.

Individuals who cannot access naloxone from pharmacies will continue to access naloxone through registered programs including individuals using naloxone in the line of duty.

A letter has been sent to pharmacies advising them of N-CAP, and of the increased number of individuals expected to be requesting naloxone. We encourage each of you to reach out to the pharmacies near your sites to establish or to strengthen relationships with them and advise them on this anticipated increased need.

Promotional material for N-CAP will be sent to you under separate cover prior to August 9, 2017. We will also be scheduling webinars in the next few months to discuss the implementation of N-CAP. If you have immediate questions, please email: overdose@health.ny.gov.

We appreciate your continued commitment to addressing the opioid epidemic, and look forward to working with you to increase access to opioid overdose prevention initiatives, including naloxone.

Sincerely,

Johanne E. Morne, MS
Director
AIDS Institute