

**Maryland Overdose Response Program**  
**Guidance on Standing Orders for Pharmacy Naloxone Dispensing**  
**11/13/2015**

This document provides guidance for Maryland Overdose Response Program (ORP) authorized entities and their affiliated physician prescribers with implementing standing orders for naloxone dispensing by pharmacists. Follow the instructions below for completing the ORP's "Naloxone Standing Order for Pharmacy Dispensing" document.

1. **Physician & Authorized Entity Information:** Enter the name and Maryland license number for the physician who will be issuing the standing order. Enter the name of the ORP entity for which the physician supervises or conducts ORP trainings. The ORP law authorizes pharmacists to dispense naloxone only under standing orders issued by physicians. Although the law allows advanced practice nurses with prescribing authority to issue standing orders, pharmacists are not authorized to dispense under nurse-issued standing orders.
2. **Naloxone Formulation:** This section provides space for the prescriber to identify which naloxone formulations can be dispensed under this standing order. The standing order should read like a prescription, identifying the drug, its strength, and the quantity, as well as documenting any conditions for dispensing one formulation or another, including certificate holder preference or training. There is space to add conditions in the column next to each formulation that is authorized to be dispensed. If more space is needed, consider adding an attachment to document all conditions.
3. **Order to Dispense:** In this section, the prescriber has the opportunity to define to whom naloxone can be dispensed under this standing order. According to the law, only certificate holders can receive naloxone by standing order, but here it can be further defined, if applicable, which certificate holders. This may be relevant for standing orders intended to apply in closed systems or for certificate holders trained by specific ORP entities. In this section, the prescriber can also suggest supplies other than the naloxone and administration equipment that can be provided by the pharmacist, if available at the pharmacy. If the list of eligible certificate holders or suggested supplies extends beyond the options identified on this form, please attach it as a separate document to the standing order.
4. **Signature Line:** The physician must sign the standing order and provide an expiration date. The standing order cannot be open-ended. If the physician supervises an ORP entity, the standing order expiration data should not extend past the expiration date of the entity's authorization (entities are authorized for a 2-year period). The Behavioral Health Administration will require standing orders to be reissued when an entity is reapplying for authorization. Lastly, the standing order will no longer be valid if the physician's status as an ORP entity supervisor changes.

5. **Transfer to pharmacy:** The standing order document must be faxed to participating pharmacies to meet Maryland Medical Assistance requirements for tamper proof prescriptions. The pharmacy should keep the faxed copy on file and can consider attaching a copy with pharmacy records as they would a paper prescription.