



# MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.

## Executive Office

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Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., State of California | Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency | Department of Consumer Affairs

## AB 2760 (Wood, Chapter 324, Statutes of 2018) – Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What does this new law require?

This law requires prescribers to offer a prescription for naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression to a patient when one or more of the following conditions are present:

- The prescription dosage for the patient is 90 or more morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day.
- An opioid medication is prescribed concurrently with a prescription for benzodiazepine.
- The patient presents with an increased risk for overdose, including a patient with a history of overdose, a patient with a history of substance use disorder, or a patient at risk for returning to a high dose of opioid medication to which the patient is no longer tolerant.

This law also requires prescribers, consistent with the existing standard of care, to provide education to patients, persons designated by the patient, or for minor patients, to their parents or guardian, if they fall under one of the above conditions, regarding overdose prevention and the use of naloxone hydrochloride or another drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression.

### 2. Does this law exclude patients in an inpatient facility?

This law does not exempt inpatient facilities from its requirements.

### 3. Does the requirement to offer a prescription for naloxone apply to medications being administered in hospitals?

The requirements in this law do not apply to medications being administered in hospitals because the language in this law uses the word “prescribing,” which is different than a doctor giving an order for medication to be administered in an inpatient facility.

### 4. Is this law limited to the prescriber at the time of prescription?

The requirements in this law are not limited to the prescriber at the time of a prescription. The requirement to offer a prescription for naloxone or other similar opioid reversal drug would apply anytime the conditions specified in the law are present.

### 5. Does this law apply only to patients who are currently on opioids, or does it apply to any patient who has a history of opioid overdose?

This law applies to all patients with an increased risk for overdose, including a patient with a history of overdose, a patient with a history of substance use disorder, or a patient at risk for returning to a high dose of opioid medication to which the patient is no longer tolerant.

- 6. This law allows a patient to designate an individual(s) to receive the education required by this law. If a patient designates an individual that is not at the appointment what is the prescribers' responsibility to contact that designee?**

This law specifies that the education must be provided consistent with the standard of care. The prescriber will need to make the determination on the appropriate method to provide that education to the appropriate individual(s).