

## Iowa HHS Naloxone Initiatives FAQs

### What is the difference between the Iowa HHS naloxone administration initiative and the distribution initiative?

**Administration Initiative:** Through this Iowa HHS initiative, law enforcement agencies, non-EMS regulated fire departments, and Iowa organizations, businesses and schools can request free naloxone kits to have on-hand for administration purposes if they encounter someone (as part of their work) experiencing a suspected opioid overdose.

**Distribution Initiative:** With the passage of Secondary Distribution legislation in Iowa and the FDA approval of Narcan as an over-the-counter medication, two new distribution initiatives were launched by Iowa HHS in 2023. Through these initiatives, the identified entities now have the authority to distribute naloxone products provided to them by HHS, to individuals defined as a person in a position to assist.

### What is the difference between NARCAN and Kloxxado?

Narcan and Kloxxado are two of the brand names for different formulations of the overdose reversal medicine, naloxone. Narcan contains 4 mg of naloxone per spray and Kloxxado contains 8 mg of naloxone per spray. Naloxone is an “opioid antagonist” medicine. It attaches to opioid receptors in the brain to reverse and block the effects of opioids, which restores normal breathing to someone experiencing an opioid overdose within 2-5 minutes.

Lower dose naloxone can facilitate a more gradual overdose reversal with less severe withdrawal in people with opioid dependence or an increased opioid tolerance ([SAMHSA](#)). Withdrawal can consist of flu-like symptoms and heightened anxiety and is sometimes acutely painful.

### What organizations are eligible for the distribution initiatives?

**Secondary Distribution (Kloxxado):** Law enforcement agencies, Fire departments, school districts, health care providers, licensed behavioral health providers, county health departments and Iowa HHS.

**NARCAN Distribution:** All the organizations eligible for Kloxxado Distribution, as well as any community-based organization, or an agency or business determined by Iowa HHS to be a viable distributor of Narcan based on the unique services they provide.

### As a distributor, can my organization distribute kits to other organizations so they can distribute them?

No. The kits can be distributed to individuals, but cannot be distributed to “other organizations in the community such as churches, businesses, factories, etc.” Those organizations would need to sign up as a distributor or as part of the administration initiative.

### **What are the different ways my organization can distribute naloxone?**

Through the Iowa HHS naloxone distribution initiatives, organizations should focus on distributing naloxone to individuals likely to respond to an overdose. Most *active* distribution efforts can be supported using naloxone provided by Iowa HHS. Allowable use of the Iowa HHS naloxone distribution initiative must include naloxone administration training and collection of the following data points for each initiative used:

- 1) Number of naloxone administration trainings conducted.
- 2) Number of individuals trained on naloxone administration.
- 3) Number of naloxone kits distributed.
- 4) Number of naloxone administrations reported (and if known, outcomes).

### **Examples of active naloxone distribution:**

- **EMS leave-behind programs:** First responders leave behind a naloxone kit when responding to an emergency call related to an overdose or substance use.
- **Peer Distribution:** Naloxone is distributed by peers (people with lived/living experience of substance use).
- **Re-Entry:** Naloxone is distributed to individuals when re-entering the community from jail/prison.
- **Health Care Settings:** Naloxone is distributed by emergency departments/acute Care and other health settings including mental health and pain management providers.

Due to training and data collection requirements, *passive* naloxone distribution efforts cannot be supported using naloxone provided by Iowa HHS. However, other options to support these types of programs include use of local Opioid Settlement Funds or other grants and fundraising.

### **Examples of passive naloxone distribution:**

Passive naloxone distribution is when naloxone is made available, but administration training is not tracked.

- **Naloxone Boxes:** Naloxone is placed in boxes available for community distribution at any time
- **Naloxone delivery via mail**

- **Publicly Available Naloxone in Overdose Hotspots:** Naloxone is available for emergency use, placed in locations where overdoses frequently occur.

**Does my organization need to report data separately for the Kloxxado and NARCAN distribution initiatives if my organization utilizes both programs?**

Yes, your organization must submit data collection requirements for each initiative for accurate reporting.

**Does my organization need to report data for the distribution initiatives if we already submit data for other projects (e.g., SOR)?**

Yes, your organization should report the required data points for each program. For SOR trainings, include the following data: administration trainings (clarify if this was an SOR training), individuals trained, kits distributed and number of administrations reported and known outcomes.

**Can my organization distribute naloxone kits to individuals under age 18?**

Yes, there exists no known statutory provision, regulatory directive, legal precedent, or analogous instance in other jurisdictions pertaining to the dispensation or prescription of naloxone to minors that would point to any prohibition or additional processes/considerations for minors.

**How can my organization get new naloxone if the naloxone kit(s) were used, lost or are expired?**

Your organization should email [sor@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:sor@hhs.iowa.gov) to request new naloxone kits. If naloxone has been administered, report this to Iowa HHS within 30 days of the administration. Include the date of the administration, how much naloxone was administered, and the outcome. Replacement naloxone kit(s) will then be sent to your organization.

**If my organization's address is in a bordering state, can I participate in the distribution initiative?**

Yes, your organization can participate in the naloxone distribution initiatives if your organization will be distributing the provided naloxone to Iowa residents. Iowa HHS would need a signed letter of attestation (on a company letterhead) from your organization director sent to [sor@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:sor@hhs.iowa.gov), stating that reasonable efforts will be made to assure that kits received would be distributed to Iowa residents only.

**One of the requirements for distribution is training individuals. What is required?**

There are no specific training curriculums that must be used, but instructions on proper administration must be provided by the Naloxone distribution provider. Training must explain to the person receiving the naloxone kit, all the components of proper administration of the medication. Trainings can be as brief as two minutes and as long as an hour or more. The important thing is making sure the person receiving naloxone has a complete understanding of proper administration.

### **Can I apply for the distribution initiative and use the product for a naloxone box or vending machine?**

Due to the data collection requirements for the distribution initiative, providing naloxone without direct training would not be allowed. However, Iowa HHS would be willing to review proposals that utilize a vending machine if the vending machine is temperature controlled, provides administration training and has a method of verifying that administration training was received.

### **How much naloxone can an organization request monthly/yearly for distribution?**

Below are the current limits and required data collection points for the NARCAN and Kloxxado distribution initiatives:

#### **NARCAN**

Some things to know when placing your order:

- Each box contains 12 kits (two doses per kit).
- Orders are placed by the box, meaning quantities of 12 kits.
- There is a limit of 17 boxes per order (204 kits).
- No more than one order may be placed per month.

In addition, as an applicant you agreed to collect the following data points and report them to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services via email to

[sor@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:sor@hhs.iowa.gov):

- Number of NARCAN administration trainings conducted.
- Number of individuals trained on NARCAN administration.
- Number of NARCAN kits distributed.
- Number of NARCAN administrations reported (and if known, outcomes).

#### **Kloxxado**

Some things to know when placing your order:

- Each box contains 12 kits (two doses per kit).
- Orders are placed by the box, meaning quantities of 12 kits.
- There is a limit of 10 boxes per order (120 kits).
- No more than one order may be placed per month.

In addition, as an applicant you agreed to collect the following data points and report them to the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services:

- Number of Kloxxado administration trainings conducted.
- Number of individuals trained on Kloxxado administration.
- Number of Kloxxado kits distributed.
- Number of Kloxxado administrations reported (and if known, outcomes).

**What should my organization do with expired naloxone kits?**

Your organization can use expired naloxone kits as trainer kits or take them to your nearest pharmacy.

*Updated March 2025*