

Liability: Opioid Antagonist Prescriptions and Administration

CAI Civ Code 1714.22

A licensed health care provider who either directly, or by standing order, prescribes an opioid antagonist with reasonable care to an individual at risk for an opiate overdose or another individual in a position to assist an individual at risk of an opiate overdose will not be held legally responsible for this conduct. An individual who is prescribed or possesses an opioid antagonist pursuant to a standing order must complete the appropriate training. An individual directly prescribed an opioid antagonist is not required to complete the training. An individual who possesses or dispenses an opioid antagonist pursuant to a direct prescription or a standing order will not be held legally responsible. An individual who has completed the appropriate training and, in good faith and without compensation, reasonably administers an opioid antagonist will not be held legally responsible.

Prescribing, dispensing, or administering opioid antagonist; Report

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Opioid antagonist" means naloxone hydrochloride that is approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose.

(2) "Opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program" means any program operated by a local health jurisdiction or that is registered by a local health jurisdiction to train individuals to prevent, recognize, and respond to an opiate overdose, and that provides, at a minimum, training in all of the following:

- (A) The causes of an opiate overdose.
- (B) Mouth to mouth resuscitation.
- (C) How to contact appropriate emergency medical services.
- (D) How to administer an opioid antagonist.

(b) A licensed health care provider who is authorized by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist may, if acting with reasonable care, prescribe and subsequently dispense or distribute an opioid antagonist to a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose.

(c)

(1) A licensed health care provider who is authorized by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist may issue standing orders for the distribution of an opioid antagonist to a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose.

(2) A licensed health care provider who is authorized by law to prescribe an opioid antagonist may issue standing orders for the administration of an opioid antagonist to a person at risk of an opioid-related overdose by a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person experiencing or reasonably suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose.

(d)

(1) A person who is prescribed or possesses an opioid antagonist pursuant to a standing order shall receive the training provided by an opioid overdose prevention and treatment training program.

(2) A person who is prescribed an opioid antagonist directly from a licensed prescriber shall not be required to receive training from an opioid prevention and treatment training program.

(e) A licensed health care provider who acts with reasonable care shall not be subject to professional review, be liable in a civil action, or be subject to criminal prosecution for issuing a prescription or order pursuant to subdivision (b) or (c).

(f) Notwithstanding any other law, a person who possesses or distributes an opioid antagonist pursuant to a prescription or standing order shall not be subject to professional review, be liable in a civil action, or be subject to criminal prosecution for this possession or distribution. Notwithstanding any other law, a person not otherwise licensed to administer an opioid antagonist, but trained as required under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d), who acts with reasonable care in administering an opioid antagonist, in good faith and not for compensation, to a person who is experiencing or is suspected of experiencing an overdose shall not be subject to professional review, be liable in a

civil action, or be subject to criminal prosecution for this administration.