

January 31, 2019



**Alert: New Naloxone Regulations Effective on January 1, 2019**

Assembly Bill 2760 (Wood, Chapter 324) was signed into law in 2018 and became effective on January 1, 2019. California prescribers are now required to offer a prescription to a patient for either naloxone or another drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the complete or partial reversal of opioid-induced respiratory depression, as a rescue medication when one or more of the following conditions are present:

- The prescription dosage for the patient is  $\geq 90$  mg Morphine Equivalent Daily Dose (MEDD).
- An opioid medication is prescribed concurrently with a prescription for a benzodiazepine.
- The patient presents with an increased risk for overdose, including a history of overdose, a history of substance use disorder, or a risk for returning to a high dose of opioid medication to which the patient is no longer tolerant.

The bill also requires a prescriber, consistent with the existing standard of care, to provide education on overdose prevention and the use of naloxone or other similar drug approved by the FDA to a patient and his or her designee or, if the patient is a minor, to the patient's parent or guardian.

For additional information, providers may review the [Naloxone](#) page of the Medical Board of California website, which includes [FAQs](#) and the language in [AB 2760](#). Providers may also review the December 2018 publication of [The Script](#) newsletter on the California State Board of Pharmacy website, which includes an article on page 11 titled "New law requires prescribers to offer prescription for naloxone with opioids."