



## Life-Saving Naloxone from Pharmacies

Vital Signs – August 2019

- Increased use of naloxone can help end the opioid overdose epidemic.
- About 48,000 US drug overdose deaths involved opioids in 2017.
- Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.
- Pharmacists and other healthcare providers play a critical role in ensuring patients receive naloxone.
- State standing order laws allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription and can reduce opioid overdose deaths.
- State co-prescribing laws require physicians to prescribe naloxone when prescribing high-dose opioids.
- Both standing order and co-prescribing laws can increase naloxone dispensing in pharmacies.
- Dispensing has increased in recent years, but more work needs to be done, particularly in rural counties.
- What can pharmacists and other healthcare providers, health insurers, and states and communities do?
- Find answers at [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns)