

**OPIOID UPDATE**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Behavioral Health**

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the Opioid Update to share information about the misuse of Opioids and the effort to address the opioid epidemic. Please feel free to submit topics to Madeline Scherb at [madeline.scherb@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:madeline.scherb@idph.iowa.gov).

**In this issue:**

- **Department Efforts**
- **Opioid News**

**Department Efforts**

- **State Targeted Response (STR) Grant Update**

Federal dollars directed to states through the CURES Act funding will prioritize making treatment more accessible for opioid use disorders. IDPH's Iowa Opioid State Targeted Response grant has begun and interested stakeholders from across the state are encouraged to collaborate in the community assessment and strategic planning processes that will be hosted this summer by the treatment programs noted on this [map](#).

- **Now Available!**  
**Spanish Version of Opioid Overdose Recognition and Response Brochure**

The IDPH Bureau of Substance Abuse has a limited number of the Opioid Overdose Recognition and Response brochure in Spanish. If you would like to order copies, please contact Julie Jones at [julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov).

**Opioid News**

- **Number of Physicians Eligible to Prescribe Buprenorphine in Iowa on the Rise**

An important tool in addressing the opioid crisis is having health care providers willing and able to provide the medications needed to effectively treat opioid use disorders. As you know, Buprenorphine is one of these important medications, and Iowa has struggled with a low number of "Bupe" providers per capita.

In 2015, Iowa had just 31 physicians listed on the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Physician Locator website, meaning these individuals had completed the required training to prescribe this medication to treat an opioid use disorder. A recent review of SAMHSA's website shows that Iowa now has 49 eligible providers listed – a 63% increase. While there are likely to be several reasons for the increase, the greater availability of this service is what's most notable and important.

- **Multiple Naloxone Administrations by Emergency Medical Service Providers is Increasing**

A [study](#) was recently published on trends in EMS patient encounters involving multiple naloxone administrations. In brief, the study identified that EMS patient encounters involving multiple naloxone administrations (MNA) increased 26% between 2012-2015 such that, by 2015, nearly one in 5 patients received MNA. EMS encounters with patients who were men or that took place in the Northeast had the highest odds of requiring MNA as compared to encounters in suburban, rural, or wilderness areas. Patient encounters where advanced life support services were provided or where the dispatch complaint indicated the emergency event was a drug poisoning also had greater odds of involving MNA.

- **Hy-Vee Offers Naloxone Without a Prescription**

To assist in the national opioid overdose crises, Hy-Vee, Inc., made an [announcement](#) last week that it now offers naloxone to customers without a prescription in four of the eight states where it has pharmacies.

All Hy-Vee pharmacy locations in Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota and Wisconsin offer naloxone without a prescription. The effort is meant to help prevent opioid-related deaths. While naloxone is known to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, the medication has no effect if opioids are absent.

"We know the availability of this medication has the potential to save lives," said Kristin Williams, senior vice president and chief health officer at Hy-Vee. "It's vital that we do everything we can to assist those with a loved one who may encounter an opioid overdose by combining medications or by accidentally taking too much of a medication, being unaware of the life-threatening result."

Naloxone is available at Hy-Vee pharmacies in nasal spray, as well as injection form by request.

- **List of Iowa Pharmacies Participating in Naloxone Standing Order**

The Iowa Board of Pharmacy has posted a [list](#) on their website of participating pharmacies utilizing the statewide Standing Order for Naloxone distribution. Included in the list are the different administration forms available, as well as participating locations if the pharmacy operates in more than one city.