



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 115 [2015 Assembly Bill 427]	Dispensing of Opioid Antagonists
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Wisconsin Act 115 clarifies the law regarding the use of standing orders to authorize the dispensing of opioid antagonists.

Opioid antagonists are prescription drugs, such as the drug naloxone, some of which can, when administered to a person undergoing an overdose on drugs such as heroin or prescription narcotics, have the effect of countering the effects of the overdose.

Under current law, a prescriber may prescribe an opioid antagonist to a person in a position to assist an individual at risk of undergoing an opioid-related drug overdose and may deliver the opioid antagonist to that person.¹

The Act further authorizes a prescriber to issue a standing order to one or more persons authorizing the dispensing of an opioid antagonist, and authorizes a pharmacist to deliver an opioid antagonist to an individual in accordance with a standing order.

The Act specifies that a “standing order” is an order transmitted electronically or in writing by a practitioner for a drug or device for multiple patients or for one or more groups of patients, and is considered to be a prescription order for purposes of the pharmacy law. A standing order is not required to specify the name and address of a patient.

¹ A prescriber is a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse certified to issue prescription orders. The prescriber must ensure that the person has the knowledge and training necessary to safely administer the opioid antagonist and the capacity to ensure that any individual to whom the person further delivers the opioid antagonist has or receives that knowledge and training.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

A pharmacist dispensing an opioid antagonist pursuant to a standing order must provide a consultation in accordance with rules promulgated by the Pharmacy Examining Board.

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