

The Ministry of Health recently amended the Health Professions General Regulation (http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/275_2008) to allow for naloxone to be administered by people not otherwise authorized, outside of a hospital setting, when there is a suspected opioid overdose. This includes physical therapists. As you may be aware, naloxone is a medication used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose.

Physical therapists, who work outside of a hospital setting, where administering naloxone may be required, need to consider whether they are in a position to administer naloxone.

If so, you are:

- responsible for acquiring the necessary training to ensure effective administration of naloxone as well as to minimize the risk of potential harm, and are
- strongly encouraged to review the links provided below and consider making any necessary preparations.

Relevant Resources

BC Centre for Disease Control – Toward the Heart

<http://towardtheheart.com/naloxone/>

College of Pharmacists of BC

<http://www.bcpharmacists.org/naloxone>

HealthLinkBC

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/take-home-naloxone-program>

On March 22, 2016, Health Canada revised the Federal Prescription Drug List to make a non-prescription version of naloxone more accessible to Canadians in support of efforts to address the growing number of opioid overdoses. On April 14, 2016, B.C.'s provincial health officer declared a public health emergency over the amount of illicit drug overdoses occurring in the province. On October 13, 2016, regulations under the *Health Professions Act* and the *Emergency Health Services Act* were amended to enable all healthcare professionals to administer naloxone outside of a hospital setting. The College will continue to monitor for any further changes in the regulation and provide relevant updates as they develop.