

The Opioid Crisis and Life-Saving Medication Helpful Resources Now Available at Floridablue.com

As devastating consequences of the opioid epidemic continue, we are committed to responding to the crisis for the safety of our members.

Since 1999, nearly 650,000 Americans have died of an opioid overdose. More than half of these deaths have occurred since 2016^{1,2}. Two out of three drug overdose deaths in 2018 involved an opioid³. As many strategies and tactics are deployed to address this public health crisis, one life-saving tactic includes the administration of naloxone. This medication, designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose, is recommended to be given to anyone at high-risk for, or suspected as experiencing, an opioid overdose⁴.

With so many opioid epidemic resources, guidelines, and recommendations currently available, it can be difficult to know what information to trust. We have added several useful resources to our website to assist you and your patients. The materials include educational tools and guidelines from trusted industry sources (i.e., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida Department of Children and Families, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, etc.).

The resources now available on our website focus on:

- Starting a conversation with your patients
- What is naloxone?
- Who should get naloxone?
- How to use naloxone
- Financial resources
- Other miscellaneous information

To reference this material, be sure to visit [floridablue.com](https://www.floridablue.com) and select the *Provider* tab, *Medical & Pharmacy Policies and Guidelines*, *Pain Management*, *Opioid Abuse and Overdose Medication* or click [here](#).

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics System, Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death (2022); www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm#Mortality_Multiple.

²National Center for Health Statistics, Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death Public Use Data Files and Documentation (2021); www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm#Mortality_Multiple.

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Vital Statistics System, Mortality Multiple Cause-of-Death (2022); www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/vitalstatsonline.htm#Mortality_Multiple.

⁴U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, How to Respond to an Opioid Overdose (2022); <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/opioid-crisis-statistics/index.html#:~:text=Facts%20about%20Opioids,in%202018%20involved%20an%20opioid.&text=Misuse%20of%20prescription%20opioids%20among,the%20survey%20began%20assessing%20it>.