

# Take-Home Naloxone Implementation Toolkit:

## Labor & Delivery

The surge in opioid overdose deaths in Colorado requires urgent action. Initial estimates predict that 1,512 Coloradans died of an overdose in 2020, a 37.5% increase from 2019. Alarming, provisional data shows that deaths related to fentanyl increased by 524% from 2018 to 2020. As COVID-19 has occupied the nation's attention, the opioid crisis has continued to accelerate and overdose remains the number one killer of Americans under the age of 50. The pregnant and postpartum population has followed this alarming trend.

The maternal death rate in CO nearly doubled from 2008 to 2013, from 24.3 deaths per 100,000 live births to 46.2 deaths. Suicides and overdoses are rising in this population, and the overwhelming majority of overdose deaths were attributed to opioids. 80% of these deaths were determined preventable - through better medical care, mental health care or substance-abuse treatment. The latest Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) reported that from 2014 to 2016, there were 94 maternal deaths in Colorado; the second highest cause of "non-medical" pregnancy-associated death was unintentional overdose (n=13).

Rates of opioid use disorder (OUD) in pregnant patients have increased dramatically in parallel with rates in the general population over the past two decades. Data from more than 1.4 million pregnant women from 2009 to 2014 found that 0.57% were diagnosed with OUD during pregnancy or at delivery. Pregnant and postpartum patients with OUD are at elevated risk for overdose and high-risk behaviors that can expose themselves and their fetuses or newborns to negative health and social outcomes.

The evidence is clear, one of the best proven interventions to address the overdose crisis in the pregnant and postpartum population is with the opioid overdose antidote, naloxone. Naloxone saves lives and has been recommended for wide distribution by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Surgeon General,

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and leading medical organizations. Despite the well recognized benefits of naloxone, no state has taken the steps necessary to create a reliable, durable system for naloxone distribution.

Colorado hospitals, clinicians and organizations are stepping forward with an initiative that is the first of its kind. **The Colorado Naloxone Project aims to make Colorado the first state in which every hospital and Emergency Department (ED) systematically identifies patients at-risk of opioid overdose and sends them home with naloxone in hand.** The labor and delivery ward is an important piece of this project.

The Colorado Naloxone Project has been in development for over three years and holds the promise to help reverse the surge in opioid overdose deaths, including in the pregnant and postpartum population, and make Colorado a national leader in efforts to address the opioid and overdose crisis.

## Toolkit Resources

### The Colorado Naloxone Project

- ▶ [Colorado Naloxone Project overview](#)
- ▶ [Hospital enrollment form](#)
- ▶ [5 principles of systematic change](#)

### Health Systems

- ▶ [Link to website, Twitter, Facebook social media accounts](#)
- ▶ [Data Collection and Submission Manual](#)
- ▶ [Codes for at-risk patients](#)
- ▶ [Program development checklist](#)
- ▶ CO's CURE [2019 Hospital Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone take-home kits PowerPoint for key stakeholder](#)

### Clinicians

- ▶ [Naloxone nasal spray take-home kits dispensing guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone injectable take-home kits dispensing guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone nasal spray take-home kits process tip sheet](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone injectable take-home kits process tip sheet](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone take-home kits huddle notes](#)
- ▶ Winning conversations: How to speak to patients about opioids, overdose and opioid use disorders
  - [Talking to patients: guide for clinicians](#)
  - [Let's talk about naloxone](#)



**Patients**

- ▶ Educational Handouts:
    - [Guide to using naloxone after opioid overdose](#)
    - [Guide to naloxone and preventing overdose in people who inject drugs](#)
    - [Guide to naloxone for patients with chronic pain](#)
    - [Guide to your take-home naloxone kit](#)
    - [Narcan quick start guide - English](#)
    - [Narcan quick start guide - Spanish](#)
  - ▶ [Colorado Naloxone Project Posters](#) (waiting rooms, treatment areas, bathrooms)
  - ▶ Other Patient Education Handouts:
    - [Injecting drugs safely](#)
    - [Opioid Use Disorder - facts & treatment](#)
    - [Safe storage and disposal of opioids](#)
    - [Risks of opioids](#)
    - [How does naloxone work: ACEP trifold](#)
  - ▶ Finding Treatment - Opioid Treatment Program Locator Directories
    - [OBH's Opioid treatment program directory](#)  
Find programs providing medications (methadone, buprenorphine, suboxone, vivitrol, antabuse, naltrexone, naloxone, narcan) for the treatment of opioid addiction in Colorado counties.
    - [SAMHSA's Opioid treatment program directory](#)  
Find programs providing methadone for the treatment of opioid addiction (heroin or pain relievers) state by state.
    - [SAMHSA's Buprenorphine physician and treatment program locator](#)  
Find physicians and treatment programs providing buprenorphine for opioid addiction (heroin or pain relievers) state by state.
- For videos on how to use naloxone, scan this QR code or visit [naloxoneproject.com](http://naloxoneproject.com)



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