Policy #:	26.37.090
Issued:	10/2022
Reviewed/ Revised:	7/2023, 7/2024, 7/2025
Section:	Emergency Department

Nurse Initiated Protocol: Naloxone Take Home Kits for Patients being Discharged from the Emergency Department

Purpose:

To establish a policy and procedure for nurses to provide naloxone take home kits for patients who are discharged from the BMC Emergency Department (ED) that meet any of the outlined criteria.

Policy Statement:

Standing orders are approved by the BMC Medical – Dental Staff and as such gives licensed nurses the ability to provide medications per "Naloxone Take Home Kits" electronic medical record (EMR) standing order.

The standing order provides the mechanism for nursing to administer medication per standing order approved by the BMC Medical – Dental Staff. Licensed nurses accept, verify, and implement orders from duly authorized prescribers, including standing orders and protocols.

Per MA BORN Advisory Ruling 9324, standing orders/protocols include written authorization from a duly authorized prescriber that indicates evidence based practice standards for a specific medication or activity to be implemented by the nurse. Standing orders/protocols are applicable to a specific patient or specific situation and directions remain consistent during implementation.

Collaborative protocols allowing the nurse to initiate certain treatments before physician assessment have been shown to improve productivity, when utilizing evidence-based practice. Nurse initiated protocols have been found to expedite critical treatments, reduce delays to effective care and increase patient satisfaction.

Application:

All patients being discharged from the ED meeting the any of following criteria:

- ED visit related to opioid use disorder (e.g. overdose, withdrawal)
- History of substance use disorder or opioid use disorder
- Patient request for naloxone take home kit
- Home medication list containing ≥50 morphine milligram equivalents per day
- Home medication list containing opioids and benzodiazepines
- Home medication list containing buprenorphine formulations or methadone

Exceptions:

- Patients being admitted
- Patients already ordered for naloxone take home kits by clinicians or pharmacists

Procedure:

- ED nurses may screen their patients being discharged for naloxone take home kit eligibility criteria
- ED nurses may provide a naloxone take home kit from the "Naloxone Take Home Kits" EMR for patients that meet criteria
- ED nurses will then obtain the Naloxone Take Home Kits with patient-specific labels and naloxone education handout from the ED Pharmacy Satellite
- ED Nurse, Pharmacist, or Clinician will counsel the patient on naloxone and provide the patient with the take home kit and educational handout

Responsibility:

RN, Pharmacy

Attachments:

None

Forms:

None

Other Related Policies/Protocols/Guidelines:

13.09.510 Pharmacist Ordering of Naloxone Take Home Kits (for Discharge Patients in the ED)
13.04.070 Discharge Prescriptions for Patients When BMC Outpatient Pharmacies are Closed
13.09.500 Emergency Department Buprenorphine/Naloxone 2-Day Supply
03.99.020 Guidelines for Emergency Treatment of Opioid Overdose
26.85.000 Decreasing Risk and Stigma Among Patients Who Use Drugs: Safer Use Supplies
Management of Opioid Withdrawal in the Emergency Department Non-Pregnant Adult Patients

Initiated by:

Emergency Department

Contributing Departments:

Pharmacy