



Take-Home Naloxone Implementation Toolkit:

Pregnant and Postpartum Patients and Families

In recent years, fentanyl has driven overdose numbers to startling new highs. In 2021, an estimated 107,375 people in the United States died of drug overdoses and poisonings – a 38.1% increase from the year prior. A staggering 67% of those deaths involved synthetic opioids like fentanyl, a 55.6% increase from 2020. Overdose and suicide remain leading causes of nonpregnancy-related maternal death, 23%, in the United States year after year. Compounding the problem, opioid misuse has created significant strain on children's health and the child welfare system. Since 2017, the number of children entering foster care due to parental drug use has increased by 147%. Simply put, the opioid overdose crisis is destroying American families. As COVID-19 has occupied the nation's attention, the opioid overdose crisis has continued to accelerate in pregnant and postpartum people.

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. The number of pregnant women with an OUD more than quadrupled from 1999 to 2014. It is estimated that one infant was born with neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) every 15 minutes in the United States during that 15-year timeframe. In addition, 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 to at-risk perinatal patients and families.

[The Naloxone Project](#) was launched in 2021 in Colorado and aimed 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 [MOMs \(Maternal Overdose Matters\) Initiative](#) is the next piece of this project and will focus on distribution of take-home naloxone kits to at-risk pregnant and postpartum patients and families out of hospital-based obstetric, labor and delivery, perinatal, and neonatal units.

[The 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 through the [MOMs Initiative](#).



Toolkit Resources

The MOMs Initiative

- ▶ [MOMs Initiative Overview](#)
 - [MOMs Initiative Hospital Enrollment Form](#)
- ▶ [The Naloxone Project Overview](#)
 - [Hospital Enrollment Form](#)
 - [6 Principles of Systematic Change](#)

Health Systems

- ▶ [Media Toolkit](#)
- ▶ [Program Development Checklist](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone Take-Home Kits PowerPoint for Key Stakeholders](#)
- ▶ [Link to Website, Twitter, Facebook](#) social media accounts
- ▶ [Data Collection and Submission Manual](#)
 - [Codes for At-Risk Patients](#)
- ▶ [Key Legislation](#) - example

Clinicians

- ▶ [Naloxone Take-Home Kits Dispensing Guidelines](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone Take-Home Kits Process Tip Sheet](#)
- ▶ [Naloxone Take-Home Kits Huddle Notes](#)
- ▶ [MOMs Naloxone Take Home Kits Brief Training PowerPoint](#)
- ▶ [Talking to MOMs: A 5-Step Guide to Successful Conversations](#)
- ▶ [Let's Talk About Naloxone](#)



Patients

- ▶ Naloxone Educational Handouts:
 - [Guide to Your Take-Home Naloxone Kit](#)
 - [Guide to Take-Home Naloxone for Patients with Chronic Pain](#)
 - [Guide to Take-Home Naloxone for Patients with Acute Pain](#)
 - [Guide to Take-Home Naloxone After Opioid Overdose](#)
 - [Guide to Take-Home Naloxone and Preventing Overdose in People who Inject Substances](#)
 - [Narcan Quick Start Guide - English](#)
 - [Narcan Quick Start Guide - Spanish](#)
 - [How Does Naloxone Work: ACEP Trifold](#)
 - [Overdose and Naloxone Information for Patients](#)
- ▶ Flyers
 - [MOMs Initiative Flyer](#)
 - [MOMs Initiative Flyer - Spanish](#)
- ▶ Other Patient Education Handouts:
 - [Opioid Use Disorder - Facts & Treatment](#)
 - [Safe Storage and Disposal of Medications](#)
 - [Risks of Opioids](#)
- ▶ Finding Treatment - Opioid Treatment Program Locator Directories:
 - [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

MOMs Initiative Team Contact Information

Donald Stader, MD, FACEP Executive Director Don@naloxoneproject.com	State Chair	Nikki King, MSW Project Manager Nikki@naloxoneproject.com
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