



County of San Diego

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMS LEAVE BEHIND NALOXONE PROGRAM

The County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services Section has developed a partnership with the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP).¹ Through this program, EMS agencies, first responders, and community organizations in California are now able to contribute to reducing deaths associated with opioid overdose by distributing naloxone to those who would benefit following an emergency patient contact. San Diego County Advanced Life Support (ALS) agencies are now authorized to implement a local Leave Behind Naloxone Program. The Program is an important component in improving outreach to a vulnerable patient population by increasing opportunities for access to care, treatment, and recovery from opioid addiction.

The Leave Behind Naloxone Program is an optional initiative – ALS agencies are not mandated to participate. EMS agencies that chose to participate in the Program are required to provide opioid overdose prevention and treatment training for their providers. EMS agencies must request approval to participate in the Leave Behind Naloxone Program by sending an email request with a copy of their agency protocol, training materials, plan for deployment, and Quality Assurance Plan to: EMSNotification.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

A “Leave Behind Naloxone Kit” may be provided when a patient refuses transport after a naloxone field reversal or a suspected opioid-related overdose (see [S-134](#) and [S-412](#)). It is not to be used as an alternative to transporting the patient to the hospital. For appropriate patient contacts, the ALS provider will provide the patient (or accompanying individual) with a naloxone administration kit, focused administration training, written information (can include contact information on recovery programs and resources), and a warning to call 9-1-1 without delay should the naloxone be administered.

The NDP is funded by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by DHCS to address the opioid crisis and reduce overdose deaths through the provision of free naloxone, in its nasal spray formulation. The DHCS program may provide naloxone at no cost to EMS agencies for the Leave Behind Naloxone Program. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

Respectfully,

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¹ The Naloxone Distribution Project is authorized by California [Civil Code Section 1714.22](#)