



# Technical Bulletin

## Division of Public and Behavioral Health



**Date:** May 5, 2016  
**Topic:** Summary of Nevada Senate Bill 459  
**Contact:** Kevin Quint, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency.  
**To:** Healthcare facilities, physicians, and pharmacies

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Senate Bill 459 (SB 459) was introduced by Governor Brian Sandoval and signed into law on May 5, 2015. It took effect in Nevada on October 1st, 2015. This bill enacts a number of provisions that work together to address the serious issue and problem of prescription, opioid, and heroin drug use in the state of Nevada. Measures in the bill are modeled after national evidence based practices and help set the tone for reaching and helping those with opioid use disorders. This technical bulletin is designed to provide summaries of the major changes that may affect Nevada healthcare facilities, physicians, and pharmacies.

### Naloxone:

- SB 459 expands access to the opioid antagonist Naloxone (also known as Narcan). The law now allows a provider to prescribe and/or dispense Naloxone to a family member, friend, or someone in the position to help another person at risk of overdose. The law also allows for Naloxone to be distributed by a community based organization for no cost.
- Law enforcement and EMS personnel are allowed to carry and administer Naloxone.
- No one is REQUIRED to prescribe, dispense, carry, or administer Naloxone.
- Pharmacists with standing orders issued by a health care professional are allowed to store and dispense Naloxone.
- The State Board of Pharmacy is responsible for developing standardized procedures and protocols for dispensing Naloxone. This includes patient education on opioid overdoses, the method for safe administration of Naloxone, potential side effects and adverse events connected with administering Naloxone, and the importance of seeking emergency medical assistance for a person experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose, even after administering Naloxone.

### Good Samaritan Immunity Law:

- SB 459 enacted the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act. Good Samaritan immunity applies to an individual person who acting in "good faith and with reasonable care," administers an opioid antagonist to someone experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.
- Good Samaritan immunity is provided to individuals who seek medical help for others, themselves, or are the subject of a help request.
- Good Samaritan immunity allows the person in question to not be arrested and prosecuted for minor drug offenses. This includes possession of a controlled substance and/or drug paraphernalia and protection for underage persons in possession or under the influence of alcohol. The protections do not extend to more serious offenses such as drug trafficking, violent crime, crimes against children, or child endangerment.

### Mandated Utilization of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:

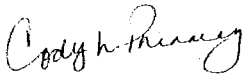
- SB 459 requires the prescribing physician to obtain a patient utilization report from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) before initiating a prescription for a controlled substance in Schedule II, III, or IV.
- The prescribing physician is required to check the PDMP when the patient is new to the physician or if the prescription is part of a new course of treatment for the patient AND is written for more than seven (7) days.
- Prescribing physicians are allowed to have registered agents run the patient utilization report on their behalf.

- Emergency room physicians are allowed to designate members of hospital staff to act as delegates for the purpose of running the utilization report for the emergency room doctors.

Physician Continuing Education:

- SB 459 recommends prescribing physicians to receive one (1) continuing education credit on the misuse or abuse of prescription drugs. The training is tied to each licensure period and will be enforced by the prescribing physician licensing boards.

Finally, for patients that need help for an addiction problem, there are many resources in the community. The Crisis Call Center is available by telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with live staff and volunteers, including Spanish speaking. The number is 775-784-8090 or text "Answer" to 839863.



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