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# Pharmacist-Initiated Dispensing of Opioid Antagonists

**Under 201 KAR 2:360, pharmacists can initiate the dispensing of opioid antagonists pursuant to a physician-approved protocol.**

## Step 1: Add Opioid Antagonist Certification

- Each pharmacist dispensing opioid antagonists per protocol must be certified.
- Login to <http://gateway.pharmacy.ky.gov>. Click on your license, then click on "Add Opioid Antagonist Certification."
- Complete the attestation and submit the application to the Kentucky Board of Pharmacy.
- You will be issued a new pharmacist license that includes "Naloxone Certified."

## Step 2: Establish Workflow and Documentation

- Assess and revise your current workflow to meet the education and documentation requirements of the law.
- Develop or obtain written educational materials that you will use for patient counseling.

## Step 3: Establish a Protocol with a Physician

- A physician-approved protocol authorizes the pharmacist to initiate the dispensing of naloxone.
- Each pharmacist who will dispense naloxone must be listed, but a single physician can authorize multiple pharmacists.
- A sample protocol is available from the Board of Pharmacy: <https://pharmacy.ky.gov/professionals/Pages/Pharmacists.aspx>
- The Department of Public Health offers a statewide protocol for pharmacists who do not have a medical provider to issue a protocol: <https://pharmacy.ky.gov/professionals/Documents/2024KYNaloxoneRx.pdf>

Proof of training is not required to become opioid antagonist certified. However, training is recommended for pharmacists unfamiliar with protocol dispensing or overdose response. Free continuing education is available: <http://healky.learningexpressce.com>.

**For information or assistance, please contact: [monica.roberts@uky.edu](mailto:monica.roberts@uky.edu)**

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