

University of Southern Maine: Opioid Overdose Prevention and Awareness Policy¹

1. Policy Purpose and Scope

The University of Southern Maine (USM), in alignment with the University of Maine System (UMS), is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, and substance-free environment for all students, employees, and visitors. Recognizing the ongoing impact of the opioid crisis, USM seeks to increase awareness of opioid addiction, prevention strategies, and life-saving interventions.

In the unfortunate event of an opioid overdose, USM aims to reduce the risk of fatality through the availability of naloxone hydrochloride—commonly known as Narcan® Nasal Spray—or other FDA-approved, similarly acting overdose-reversal medications (referred to in this policy as **Intranasal Naloxone or IN kits**) on its campuses.

This policy outlines USM's commitment to the availability, responsible use, and education around Intranasal Naloxone in order to help prevent opioid-related deaths on its campuses, while supporting broader UMS efforts in public health, prevention, and harm reduction.

This policy applies to all campuses, buildings, facilities, and spaces owned, operated, or controlled by the University of Southern Maine, including those used for academic, administrative, residential, or auxiliary purposes.

2. Definitions

Intranasal Naloxone (Narcan®): An FDA-approved nasal spray used to quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose by blocking opioid receptors in the brain. This includes Narcan® and other equally safe, intranasal formulations.

Opioid Overdose : A potentially fatal medical emergency resulting from the ingestion of toxic levels of opioids. Symptoms may include slowed or stopped breathing, unconsciousness, bluish skin, and unresponsiveness.

First Aid Provider : Any individual trained in basic emergency care and authorized to respond to medical incidents, including the administration of naloxone. UMS universities may, at their

¹ This policy is intended to supplement, not replace, any applicable local, state, or federal laws currently in effect, including but not limited to Public Law 2023, Chapter 153: An Act to Require All Uniformed Patrol Officers to Carry Naloxone Hydrochloride When on Duty. Referenced from UMS Opioid Overdose Prevention and Awareness Policy.

discretion, adopt university-level policies or protocols that allow for the administration of UMS-owned Intranasal Naloxone in the following instances:

- By appropriately trained licensed healthcare personnel, law enforcement, any UMS staff or faculty who has been trained and whose job description includes the training for and provision of basic first aid;
- By appropriately trained UMS staff or faculty when deemed necessary (for example, off-campus trips, etc.); and
- In a UMS-owned first aid kit or other designated area to be administered by the public, including any individual member of the UMS community.

Public Access Cabinets or Kits: Naloxone kits will be housed with Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units and made publicly available in common areas across campus. Each kit will typically include at least one dose of naloxone, clear instructions for use, and information on support resources.

3. Individual Rights

Intranasal Naloxone is available to the public with or without a prescription. UMS will not interfere with or discourage any individual member of the UMS community from carrying or administering their personally owned Intranasal Naloxone.

In the context of the University of Southern Maine, individuals are encouraged to act responsibly when encountering a suspected opioid overdose. Maine's Good Samaritan Law provides legal protections to those who, in good faith, seek medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug-related overdose or who render aid at the scene. This immunity covers most non-violent offenses, including drug possession, ensuring that both the individual assisting and the person experiencing the overdose are shielded from arrest or prosecution under these circumstances.

4. Authorized Use of University-Owned Narcan

Categories of individuals authorized to administer university-supplied Narcan:

- Licensed healthcare professionals
- Law enforcement officers
- Faculty/staff trained in basic first aid
- Trained non-medical staff or students
- General public when Narcan is publicly accessible

5. Training Requirements

Maine law enforcement officers and healthcare personnel employed by the University of Southern Maine are required to complete naloxone training consistent with legal and professional standards. While USM does not provide training for the general campus

community, individuals are encouraged to pursue training through public health agencies or community partners to support campus-wide preparedness.

Although this policy does not serve as a general instructional guide, the University acknowledges that further training, as outlined above, is intended to support the appropriate assessment of personal and USM community safety during an incident involving naloxone administration. This instruction is not intended as an instruction guide to the general public.

6. Accessibility and Storage

At the University of Southern Maine, naloxone kits will be housed with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and made publicly accessible in key campus locations, including residence halls, dining facilities, student centers, and other high-traffic areas.

Physical and online maps identifying naloxone kit locations will be maintained and regularly updated by Public Safety, University Health & Counseling Services, and Facilities Management to ensure availability and ease of access during emergencies².

Narcan Storage requirements will ideally be 68 –77°F, away from direct sunlight.

Each Narcan kit will contain (at a minimum)

- 1 dose of nasal Narcan
- Usage guide and overdose response instructions
- QR codes or resource cards for addiction support services

7. Administration Protocol

Naloxone should be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions included in each kit to ensure safe and effective use.

A 911 call must be made immediately whenever intranasal naloxone is administered, unless it is administered by authorized law enforcement, emergency medical personnel, or a first responder dispatched through 911.

After administration, the individual should be monitored until emergency personnel arrive. If trained, the responder should provide rescue breathing or other first aid as appropriate.

² These maps are also available online through the University of Southern Maine's Public Safety and Health & Counseling Services websites for easy access by the campus community.

The responder should remain on scene to provide information to first responders and ensure proper handoff of care. In the case of public access kit usage, the location should be restocked as soon as possible with notification of the same made by Facilities management, Public Safety, or Health Services.

8. Oversight and Responsibility

Inventory checks

The USM Department of Public Safety will be responsible for monthly checks of monitoring the location and expiration of Overdose Emergency supplies.³

Ordering and storing supplies

Naloxone supplies will be ordered and stored through a cost-effective partnership with the City of Portland Public Health Division (Tier II)⁴. This effort will be coordinated by the Safety Advisory Board in collaboration with Public Safety, ROCC, and Health & Counseling Services to ensure efficient and reliable campus-wide access.

Reporting Mechanisms

All incidents involving the administration of intranasal naloxone on University of Southern Maine property or by university personnel shall be documented through an internal reporting mechanism that includes appropriate confidentiality safeguards. Information will be aggregated to monitor the frequency, location, and general circumstances of administration and shared periodically with university leadership to support informed policy development and prevention strategies. All reporting shall prioritize individual privacy and comply with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Reporting will be conducted in alignment with Tier II reporting requirements, with the USM Department of Public Safety maintaining oversight of all naloxone administration incidents and ensuring appropriate documentation and confidentiality protocols are followed

9. Disposal Procedures

Disposal of naloxone units: whether used, partially used, or expired: should be done safely and in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and local regulations.

10. Communication and Awareness

³ This does not include replacement of missing, expired, or used supplies. This will be addressed through the Safety Advisory Board.

⁴ City of Portland partnership including USM's designation as a Tier II (T2) site for distribution under the State of Maine Naloxone Community distribution program

USM will share information about the naloxone policy, access points, and available training opportunities with the campus community through official university communication channels. Information will be shared and reinforced annually via the University Council, Faculty Senate, Staff Senates, and Student Government.

Maps and training resources will be available online and promoted through campus safety communications.

Information about the naloxone policy, access, and training opportunities is also available through, but not limited to, individual departments, including Public Safety, Health & Counseling Services, the Recovery Oriented Campus Center (ROCC), and Student Affairs.

APPENDICES (Hyperlinked):

- DHHS Naloxone Distribution Acknowledgement
- Maine Naloxone Distribution Initiative fillable form
- Naloxone Standing Order Template
- Department of Health and Human services/ office of substance abuse and mental health services
- Chapter 19: Rules governing community-based drug overdose prevention programs
- An Act to Require All Uniformed Patrol Officers to Carry Naloxone Hydrochloride When on Duty
- Maine's Good Samaritan Law
- FDA Regulations on Naloxone
- University of Maine System (UMS) Naloxone Protocol (2023)
- USM AED Location Maps 2024