

## **PROVIDER ALERT**

### **STOP Act of 2022 - Becoming an Opioid Response Program**

**August 24, 2023**

#### **Target Audience: OTP and IOP Providers**

On July 1, 2022, Maryland enacted the 2022 Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act. The STOP Act supports certain types of providers to offer Naloxone to people likely to witness or experience an overdose. The goals of the STOP Act include:

- Place more Naloxone in the hands of people at highest risk of overdose in Maryland;
- Support organizational change necessary for certain providers to routinely offer Naloxone; and,
- Sustain funding for Naloxone.

Maryland has made many advances to address increases in fatal overdoses over the past decade. Since 2014, the statewide Overdose Response Program (ORP) has allowed community distribution of the opioid overdose reversal drug Naloxone, which bystanders can use with minimal training. Naloxone is a safe drug with no misuse potential, known to prevent overdose fatalities when distributed to those most likely to experience or witness an overdose—in particular, people who use drugs and their family members. Maryland entities authorized under the ORP distributed over 200,000 naloxone doses to community members last year, a number that has increased each year.

#### **Information for Providers**

The Maryland STOP Act of 2022 supports certain providers to offer Naloxone to people at risk of witnessing or experiencing an overdose. All entities dispensing Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs (OORDs) outside of a prescriber-patient relationship can do so under the legal authority of the Overdose Response Program, by becoming authorized to dispense.

Intensive Outpatient Programs and Opioid Treatment Programs (effective June 30, 2023) Intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs (IOPs) and Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) should have protocols to offer an OORD, free of charge, to all individuals receiving services. No diagnosis or qualifying criteria apply.

#### **How to Become an Overdose Response Program (ORP)**

Maryland Department of Health authorizes government agencies and community-based organizations as Overdose Response Programs (ORPs), allowing them to provide overdose education and dispense Naloxone through partnerships with prescribers.

To become authorized to dispense Naloxone, please click the link [here](#) and follow the steps listed. Note that you can become an Overdose Response Program without being a licensed healthcare provider. Please contact [mdh.naloxone@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.naloxone@maryland.gov) if this is the case.

### **Questions**

Please direct any related questions to [joshua.musselman1@maryland.gov](mailto:joshua.musselman1@maryland.gov) or to [mdh.naloxone@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.naloxone@maryland.gov). Information about the Overdose Response Program and distribution of Opioid Overdose Reversal Drugs in Maryland are available on the MDH Center for Harm Reduction Services [website](#).

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team