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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 23, 2025

TO: Illinois Perinatal Hospitals

FROM: Lisa Masinter, MD, MPH, MS, FACOG *LM*
Deputy Director, Office of Women's Health and Family Services

RE: Opioid Overdose Reversal Agents

According to the last maternal morbidity and mortality report, the leading cause of death in Illinois was substance use disorder (SUD) at 32%, which is more than double the second leading cause of death (cardiac/coronary conditions 14%). Illinois Department of Health and Human Services (IDHS) has a program unique to the State of Illinois, the drug overdose prevention program (DOPP). IDHS has partnered with a national organization, The Naloxone Project (TNP), providing support and education to increase knowledge, enrollment, and distribution of naloxone. DOPP, IDHS, and TNP have worked diligently to streamline and simplify this process to break down barriers to implementation/distribution.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) supports and strongly recommends all hospitals that provide care to pregnant or post-partum women distribute take-home opioid overdose reversal agents, such as naloxone kits (Narcan), with a low-threshold approach. For more information on opioid overdose reversal agents, please visit the IDPH Website: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/opioids/overdose-reversal.html>.

For resources on how to acquire naloxone, please visit the IDHS Website: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=58142n>.

Please note birthing hospitals that have onsite pharmacies should use their "Meds to Beds" program during discharge for patients covered by Medicaid or other health insurance coverage that covers naloxone. Patients without Medicaid or insurance coverage for naloxone should be enrolled in DOPP, which provides naloxone for distribution at discharge.

IDPH looks forward to a continued working relationship with your hospital that will greatly benefit perinatal patients. Please be assured that we stand ready to assist you in the effort to reduce perinatal morbidity and mortality in the communities served by your hospital.

Should you have questions regarding your hospital's role or responsibility in the Illinois Regionalized Perinatal Health System, please contact me at (312) 814-1884 or Lisa.Masinter@illinois.gov.