

Subject: FDA Approves First Generic Naloxone Nasal Spray

On April 19, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval of the first generic for Narcan® (naloxone nasal spray) that can be administered in a community setting by persons with no medical training.¹ Expanded access, affordability, and possession of naloxone are critical elements of a broader strategy to slow and reverse the epidemic of opioid overdose deaths in the United States. Naloxone, despite having been open to generic competition for nearly 50 years, is a medication with surprisingly little competition for formulations offered for use in community settings (e.g. Narcan®, Evzio®). Branded Narcan is currently priced at an Average Wholesale Price (AWP) of approximately \$150 for a “2-pack” of intranasal naloxone doses. Typically, a new generic with exclusivity will provide savings of approximately 25% from the AWP of the innovator brand. No information about packaging, date of release, or pricing for the generic product were available from Teva Pharmaceuticals at the time this bulletin was released.

The Impact

Increasing generic competition for opioid antidotes should stimulate price competition and encourage broader access and possession of them in workers’ compensation settings. They are now increasingly prescribed and make a lifesaving difference when available in an emergency. The Surgeon General of the United States strongly recommends that naloxone be available to persons who meet criteria for elevated opioid overdose risk.²

First Script will continue to monitor and report on the impact of generic naloxone nasal spray. For more information, please contact your Account Manager or Account Pharmacist.

¹ <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm636333.htm>

² <https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/priorities/opioid-overdose-prevention/naloxone-advisory.html>