

**From:** Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>  
**To:** Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
Schimsa, Rebecca <RebeccaSchimsa@gov.sc.gov>  
**CC:** Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>  
**Date:** 12/14/2016 2:20:01 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Post and Courier Inquiry on Naloxone Protocol

---

Becca – do you have concerns here?

**Rob Godfrey**  
**Office of Governor Nikki Haley**  
**Desk: (803) 734-2028 | Mobile: (803) 429-6068**

---

From: Symmes, Brian  
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 1:53 PM  
To: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Cc: Godfrey, Rob; Adams, Chaney  
Subject: RE: Post and Courier Inquiry on Naloxone Protocol

I'm sorry. I meant to include rob and chaney here.

---

From: Symmes, Brian  
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 1:45 PM  
To: Schimsa, Rebecca  
Subject: Post and Courier Inquiry on Naloxone Protocol

Bex-

Gavin Jackson has reached out to Carole Russell, Chairwoman of the Board of Pharmacy, on the new protocol for dispensing Naloxone without prescriptions. Below is the brief email from Gavin, along with the response LLR has suggested Carole provide in response to his interview request. Let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

From: "Jackson, Gavin" <gjackson@postandcourier.com>  
Date: December 12, 2016 at 1:47:21 PM EST  
To: "clsRussell@comcast.net" <clsRussell@comcast.net>  
Subject: Naloxone protocol

Carole Russell,

Hello, my name is Gavin Jackson and I'm a reporter with The Post and Courier, I hope this message finds you well.

I was hoping to talk with you today, tomorrow or Wednesday at the latest about the joint protocol to initiate dispensing of naloxone for a story I'm writing. I've followed this story since lawmakers introduced the opioid antidote bill that prompted this approval by the SC Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Pharmacy.

Please give me a call at 843-708-1830 when you have a moment to discuss the approval of the guidelines.

Thanks,

Gavin

Gavin Jackson  
Statehouse Reporter  
The Post and Courier  
Cell|Text: (843) 708-1830

Proposed Response:

South Carolina, like the rest of the United States, is in the midst of an opioid overdose epidemic. According to the CDC, opioids killed more than 28,000 people in 2014. At least half of all opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid.

Governor Haley created the Governor's Prescription Drug Abuse Prescription Council in 2014 to develop a state plan to combat the abuse of prescription opioids. The plan developed encouraged prescribers to consider offering Naloxone, an opioid antidote, to patients simultaneously with the opioid prescription in an effort to minimize the risk of overdose.

The South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act, which became effective June 3, 2015, removed civil and criminal liability for those who prescribe, dispense or administer Naloxone and allowed physicians to issue standing orders for pharmacists to dispense Naloxone to first responders.

The Legislature recognized that not every person at risk for an opioid-related overdose will seek the help of a prescriber and sought to further increase access to the life-saving antidote. Accordingly, the Overdose Prevention Act was amended in June of 2016 to allow pharmacists to dispense Naloxone without a prescription to persons at risk of opioid-related overdose and their caregivers pursuant to a joint protocol developed by the South Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners and State Board of Pharmacy. The joint protocol was finalized on November 17, 2016.

The joint protocol requires pharmacists to provide counseling to patients and their caregivers about the risk of opioid-related overdose and the use of Naloxone. Naloxone is not a controlled substance and poses no risk of addiction. Naloxone is available in multiple forms, including an auto-injector, syringe, mucosal atomizing device, and nasal Narcan.

Pharmacists can provide educational materials to patients and their caregivers about the administration of Naloxone in any of the available formats. Pharmacists can also notify a patient's primary care provider when Naloxone is dispensed if the patient identifies a primary care provider. Enhanced communication between the dispensing pharmacist and primary care provider can facilitate heightened awareness of risk factors and enhanced overall patient care. The goal of South Carolina prescribers and pharmacists is to minimize the risk of overdose by making Naloxone readily available to everyone who needs it, with or without a prescription.