

Opioid Antagonist Emergency Response Cabinets Frequently Asked Questions

What are they? Opioid Antagonist emergency response cabinets (e.g. Naloxbox) are designed to increase public access to naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication. Similar to AEDs, opioid antagonist emergency response cabinets are placed in public places where bystanders can administer life-saving treatments until paramedics arrive.

Why? More than 100 lives are lost daily due to opioid overdose in the United States. Increasing access to opioid antagonists, especially in areas where overdoses may be common, can help decrease the number of opioid-related deaths and raise awareness of how to administer it. Increasing public access to opioid antagonists can also help fight stigma related to opioid use disorder.

What is in the cabinet? Each opioid antagonist emergency response cabinet contains 2 doses of opioid antagonist for nasal administration with directions for use, along with a barrier mask to facilitate rescue breathing. Information on local treatment resources can be included as well.

Do opioid antagonists work? YES! Numerous studies have shown a direct correlation between increasing opioid antagonist access and reduced mortality from opioid-related deaths. More research is needed, however, to fully understand the impact of opioid antagonist emergency response cabinet installation.

Who can install them? – In Kentucky, KRS 217.186 authorizes licensed health care providers and opioid antagonist-certified pharmacists to prescribe and dispense opioid antagonists to persons or agencies. Agencies can install opioid antagonist emergency response cabinets to increase the accessibility of opioid antagonists for bystander use in areas where overdoses may occur. The individual agencies installing opioid antagonist emergency response cabinets must have a process in place for monitoring the cabinet so that it can be refilled if the opioid antagonist is used or have the opioid antagonist product replaced before it reaches its expiration date.