

# May Pharmacy Newsletter



## PREFERRED DRUG LIST UPDATES

### Integrated (Title 19/21 SMI) and ACC, DD, ALTCS and DCS CHP

**Additions:**

- None

**Removals:**

- None

**Other Updates**

- None

### Behavioral Health (Title 19/21 Non-SMI & Non-Title 19/21)

**Additions:**

- None

**Removals:**

- None

**Other Updates**

- None

\*\* Drugs that are not on the formulary may be available via PA (prior authorization) \*\*

- For the complete preferred drug lists, please refer to the Mercy Care websites below
  - RBHA: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy>
    - [Behavioral Health Preferred Drug List](#): For members who qualify under Non-Title 19/21 determined to have a serious mental illness (SMI) or Non-Title 19/21 children/adolescents with a serious emotional disturbance (SED), Mercy Care RBHA fills only behavioral health medications.
    - [Integrated Preferred Drug List](#): For Title 19/21 SMI members, Mercy Care RBHA fills physical health and behavioral health medications.
    - [Crisis Medication List](#): For adults or children who are Non-Title 19/21 and Non-SMI who present in crisis at any of the facility-based psychiatric urgent care centers, detox facilities and/or access point in Maricopa County. The medications on this list will help stabilize an individual in crisis and bridge them to a follow-up outpatient appointment.
  - ACC, DD, ALTCS and DCS CHP: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/completecare-forproviders/pharmacy>

## CDC's Efforts to Prevent Overdoses and Substance Use-Related Harms – 2022-2024

Drug Overdoses: An Evolving Public Health Crisis

Drug overdoses have dramatically increased over the last two decades, with overdose deaths increasing more than 500% between 1999 and 2020.<sup>1</sup>

- Overdoses are the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States with recent increases influenced by multiple factors including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In 2020, nearly 92,000 people died from drug overdoses, a 30% increase from the approximately 71,000 overdose deaths in 2019.
- Among the 2020 overdose deaths, about 75% involved a prescription or illicit opioid, 62% a synthetic opioid other than methadone (e.g., illicitly manufactured fentanyl), 21% cocaine, and 26% a psychostimulant such as methamphetamine.
- The rate of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone in 2020 was about 18 times the rate in 2013.
- For cocaine and psychostimulants, the 2020 rates were 4 and 6 times the 2013 rates, respectively.
- Deaths involving multiple drugs (i.e., polysubstance overdose deaths) are also increasing. In 2020, 79% of overdose deaths involving cocaine also involved an opioid and 62% of psychostimulant-involved overdose deaths also involved an opioid.
- Drug overdoses impact families, communities, workplaces, and the economy.

### **Opioid Overdose Prevention Saves Lives**

Best ways to prevent opioid overdose are to improve opioid prescribing, reduce exposure to opioids, avoid use and misuse, treat opioid use disorder, and address stigma surrounding opioid use disorder and recovery. There are strategies that can help prevent overdose and support the health and well-being of communities:

Maximize use of state prescription monitoring programs

Learn and educate others about the risks of prescription opioids and the help and resources available for those who may be struggling with opioid use disorder (OUD).

Increase awareness and knowledge about the dangers of illicitly manufactured fentanyl, the risks of mixing drugs, the lifesaving power of naloxone, and the importance of reducing stigma around recovery and treatment options.

**Reminder for quicker determinations of a Prior Authorization use the ePA link for Our Providers:** Please click [here to initiate an electronic prior authorization \(ePA\)](#) request

#### **References:**

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prevention/index.html>

*This newsletter is brought to you by the Mercy Care Pharmacy Team. For questions, please email Fanny A Musto ([MustoF@mercycazeaz.org](mailto:MustoF@mercycazeaz.org)), Denise Volkov ([VolkovD@mercycazeaz.org](mailto:VolkovD@mercycazeaz.org)) or Trennette Gilbert ([gilbert@mercycazeaz.org](mailto:gilbert@mercycazeaz.org))*