

Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS) August Newsletter

From our friends at UNSHAME KY:

Our thoughts and support are with those affected by the floods in Eastern Kentucky. Housing displacement can take a major toll on people with OUD and people in recovery; we encourage individuals to seek out the resources of their local community organization(s) and/or utilize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment National Helpline. This helpline provides confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, information in English and Spanish, for individuals and family members facing mental and/or SUD. This service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations.

Crisis line: 1-800-662-HELP (4357); TTY: 1-800-487-4889

Overdose Data 2 Action (OD2A) Quick News

OD2A Quick News **July 29, 2022** edition highlighted an article concerning a court ruling between 3 major drug distributors and the opioid epidemic in West Virginia in addition to a study that looked at contraception use in women that use drugs in rural communities. These stories and more can be read in their entirety by visiting the following website:
<https://mailchi.mp/2c740c4ac033/od2a-quick-news-11964639?e=eaa3773ed8>

OD2A Quick News published a newsletter on **July 22, 2022**. This newsletter highlighted The Addiction Medicine Toolkit found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. The Addiction Medicine Toolkit aims to aid the clinician in offering an overview of addiction medicine. A provider can access the following modules: Addiction Medicine Primer, Addiction Medicine Checklist, Training Modules, Patient Cases, and Conversation Starters. Follow the link for further information and to access the toolkit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/addiction-medicine/>

OD2A Quick News also featured an article published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). *Vital Signs: Drug Overdose Deaths, by Sociodemographic and Social Determinants of Health Characteristics-25 States and the District of Columbia, 2019-2020*. It was reported that deaths from overdose continued to increase in the United States from 2019-2020 rates by which overdose deaths increased varied between different racial and ethnic groups. For the full

article and to subscribe to OD2A Quick News, access the following link: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7129e2.htm?s_cid=mm7129e2_e&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_921-DM85827&ACSTrackingLabel=MMWR%20Early%20Release%20-%20Vol.%2071%2C%20July%2019%2C%202022&deliveryName=USCDC_921-DM85827

To subscribe to OD2A Quick News **July 22, 2022** edition, click the following link: <https://mailchi.mp/c6a139f695ef/od2a-quick-news-11964167?e=ea3773ed8>

OD2A Quick News **July 21, 2022** alerted us of an upcoming learning opportunity- Next of Kin (NOK) training offered for Overdose Fatality Review team members. Two dates are available for the training; **August 24, 2022 12-4pm ET** or **December 5, 2022 12-4pm ET**. Members of Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) teams can learn from NOK of overdose victims about life experiences through this 4 hour training session. For complete information and details to register, please contact: cossap@iir.com

KORE

The Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) submitted the following article to KY SOS.

New Program Aims to Make Naloxone Accessible to All Kentuckians

Kentucky Naloxone Co-Pay Program Covers Majority of Costs to Obtain Medication Naloxone – the medication used in the reversal of opioid-related overdoses – just became more accessible for Kentuckians through a new program that helps cover costs for insurance co-payments.

The Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) and Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA) have partnered to launch the Naloxone Co-Pay program to provide financial support for Kentuckians whose insurance plans do not cover the full cost of a naloxone prescription. Under the program, patients with commercial insurance may have their naloxone prescription copay reduced by up to \$60, meaning their cost for naloxone may be little as \$0 at their local pharmacy.

“Naloxone saves lives. Together with Kentucky Medicaid, which covers most naloxone products at no charge to the patient and the statewide standing order for naloxone, the accessibility of overdose reversal agents is dramatically improved” said Dr. Katie Marks, Project Director for KORE. “Often, obtaining the medication from a pharmacy results in expensive co-payments. This program will help more people access naloxone by making it more affordable or, in many cases, free.”

Under the program, participants receive a naloxone co-payment card that can be utilized by the pharmacist to obtain a reimbursement from KORE. The maximum benefit is \$60 per naloxone prescription. Each patient may fill a prescription using the program once every 30 days or as determined by their health insurance plan. Kentuckians can access more information about the program as well as downloadable and printable copies of the card at www.kphanet.org/copay.

No registration is required, simply present the card to your local pharmacy with a valid prescription for naloxone. At many pharmacies across Kentucky you do not even need to bring a prescription with you as the pharmacist can issue one as part of a naloxone protocol prescribing program. Check with your local pharmacy to see if they have the ability to issue naloxone prescriptions directly. Pharmacy participation may vary, but the vast majority of pharmacies in Kentucky should be able to process the copay card.

Most FDA-approved naloxone products used for the reversal of opioid overdose are included, such as;

1. Narcan Nasal Spray
2. Kloxxado
3. Zimhi
4. Generic naloxone products when available and as preferred by their insurance

“Naloxone is safe, easy-to-use, and is the most powerful tool we have in directly preventing overdose deaths,” said Jody Jagers, Director of Pharmacy Public Health Programs, KPhA. “I encourage everyone to take advantage of the program so that we are better equipped as a state to respond to emergencies within our homes and communities. Overdose is tragically common and, with the growing prevalence of illicit fentanyl, a risk for too many Kentuckians.”

KORE and the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy partners with KPha and the Kentucky Department for Public Health to make naloxone accessible to Syringe Service Programs, first responders and law enforcement, and community organizations, by request. In the past year, these state partners has distributed over 68,000 free units of naloxone across the state.

“Naloxone is available in a variety of settings – but many Kentuckians still face the barrier of cost when obtaining the medication at a pharmacy,” said Dr. Marks. “This program is designed to ease that burden and encourage more Kentuckians carry naloxone.”

The naloxone co-pay program is intended for individuals enrolled in private health insurance plans that do not fully cover the costs of the medication. Federally funded programs such as Medicaid and Medicare are prohibited by law from the use of programs such as this.

For more information about naloxone, overdose reversal, and how to locate a local pharmacy carrying naloxone, visit the [Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy website](#).

Data Update

KY SOS continues to encourage all facilities to submit their monthly data into KY Quality Counts (KQC). Please continue to report **monthly** data on both the process and outcomes measures. Education and the future of the program are based in part on the data reported. Areas of improvement and areas of success will be highlighted and emphasized as KY SOS continues. If you need assistance with data input or navigation of the KQC data collection system, please contact **Emily Henderson** (ehenderson@kyha.com), **Stacy Allen** (sallen@kyha.com) or **Melanie Landrum** (mlandrum@kyha.com).

The Happenings

As a reminder for the Hospital Rate Improvement Program (HRIP), the Opioid Provider Education goal is that 90% of inpatient providers receive opioid best practice education in 2022. One way this can be accomplished is by providers attending the KY SOS educational webinars (current and previous). For past webinars visit: www.kentuckysos.com Go to education/events tab and click on past presentations.

The HRIP program does not specify how many hours a provider must attend or how they receive the education (in-person or webinar, etc.), only that the facility must have documentation that the provider received education in 2022.

During the 4th Quarter 2022, KY SOS will have a one-time metric in Kentucky Quality Counts (KQC) with a numerator of total number of inpatient providers who received education for opioid best practices over the denominator of total number of inpatient providers. If the hospital has 90% or greater they will receive the 0.5% designated funding for the HRIP metric.

Upcoming Events/Webinars

1. **KY SOS August Webinar- Danesh Mazloomdoost, MD**, Medical Director of Wellward Medical in Lexington KY, will present a webinar on **Thursday August 18, 12 noon -1p ET**. The webinar is entitled, **Dissecting Pain for a Multimodal Approach**. CE is pending for this webinar. Calendar invites have been sent for this event. Share with others in your facility.

Zoom Information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83630509285?pwd=WC9obXJtWFhFMmRVVnRCTEJLV3VXUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 3050 9285

Passcode: 2501

1. **Recovery Rally** in Frankfort on the Old Capitol lawn **September 16, 2022 12 noon-4p ET**. As this rally is still in the planning stages, the date and time are subject to change. This event will celebrate those individuals in recovery and draw attention to National Recovery Month. More information to come!
2. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is providing an educational opportunity available virtually in August and September entitled **DEA Virtual Diversion Pharmaceutical Awareness Training 2022**. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are encouraged to participate and earn 3.5 contact hours (0.35 CEUs) for FREE while covering topics including but not limited to drug trends and the opioid crisis, drugs of abuse, DEA regulations, issues involving Medicare and pharmacy, fraud and diversion, and DEA inspections.

Dates for the virtual conferences:

1. **August 12**

2. **August 18**
3. **August 20**
4. **September 10**
5. **September 14**

Each conference will cover the same information and begin at **1:30 PM** and end at **5:00 PM EST**. Registration is required. To register, please visit:

<https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/mtgs/>

1. Alliant Health Solutions Partnership for Community Health & Nursing Home Webinar Event: **The Relationship Between the Social Determinants of Health and the Opioid Epidemic**. Join **Dr. Colleen Morley, DNP, RN, CCM, CMAC, CMCN, ACM-RN, FCM** on this webinar to learn about the relationship between social determinants of health and the opioid epidemic, the role a professional case manager has in managing patients with opioid use disorder, and much more. This webinar will be held **Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:30-1p ET/ 11:30-12p CT**.

To register for this webinar, visit:

<https://allianthealthgroup.webex.com/webappng/sites/allianthealthgroup/meeting/register/9c13723d05174e2baf4d9c07069672d4?ticket=4832534b00000005b904f8a44f3b5eb34f814557512c9d91fbe69d3e1d8fcffae4412722e34acea4×tamp=1660232592412>

2. **UNSHAME KY** webinar **Rallying Around Recovery: A Recovery Community Showcase on Thursday, August 25, 2022 1p ET/12p CT**. The webinar will highlight work being done by the community organizations and policy advocates, encourage participants to support evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, and recognize stigma against those with substance use disorder(SUD) is diminished by supporting people with SUD. To register, please visit: <https://unshameky.org/event/rallyaroundrecovery>

In Case You Missed It

1. **KY SOS July Webinar** presented by **Ryan Stanton MD** and **Casey Grover MD** entitled **Non-opioid Analgesia for Renal Colic**. This webinar focused on the KY SOS metric 3c: Emergency Department Opioid Use for Renal Colic.
2. **KY SOS July Webinar** presented by **John Edwards, DNAP, CRNA**, entitled **Proper Opioid Disposal**.
3. **UNSHAME Kentucky's July webinar** presented by **Rachael Cooper**, Senior Director, National Stigma Initiative, Shatterproof, **Danielle Anderson MD**, Department of Psychiatry at the University of Kentucky, **Jerrica Brandenburg LPCA & CADC**, Mental

Health Counselor and Alcohol and drug counselor, Mercy Health Marcum and Wallace Hospital, **Jessica Winchester**, Peer Support Specialist, Mercy Health Marcum and Wallace Hospital entitled **Minding Your (Bedside) Manner: Caring for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder**. The webinar highlighted healthcare stigma, utilization of screening tools, and how providers can help OUD patients feel comfortable seeking medical care. This webinar is in collaboration with KY SOS.

To watch the previously mentioned recordings, please visit:

<http://www.kentuckysos.com/Events-Education/Presentations-Recordings>

It should be noted the above three webinars will fulfill the HRIP provider education requirements for opioid stewardship best practices for CY 2022. Documentation of participation must be kept at individual facilities.

1. **2022 Kentucky Harm Reduction Summit** was held virtually **August 10-11, 2022**. The slides for the 2 day event will be made available in the near future at the following website: <https://www.cecentral.com/live/22867/files>

Did You Know...?

August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day and **September** is recognized as Recovery Month. What does your facility have planned to highlight awareness with these upcoming days? Submit facility plans to the KY SOS team to be featured in next month's KY SOS newsletter.

KY SOS Advisory Committee members will come to your facility or schedule a zoom meeting for technical assistance. This opportunity allows your staff to get specific education on opioid best practices. If you have specific questions, reach out to KHA SOS staff and you'll be connected with the appropriate KY SOS Advisory Committee member.

Additional Resources on KY SOS Website

1. Find Help Now KY is a website used to assist individuals in the community find an addiction treatment facility. For more information, visit the website at www.findhelpnowky.org
2. Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) has funded access to treatment and recovery for individuals who have a functional hearing loss and need effective communication. The guidelines can be found on the KY SOS website or click the link to be directed: <http://www.kentuckysos.com/Portals/2/Documents/KOREGuidelinesDeafHardofHearingAccessdoc.pdf>

3. All other KY SOS resources can be found at: <http://www.kentuckysos.com/Resources>

For more information, please visit www.kentuckysos.com or contact a KHA staff member to assist.

Emily Henderson for program and outpatient pharmacy-related questions–
ehenderson@kyha.com

Stacy Allen for inpatient pharmacy-related questions – sallen@kyha.com

Melanie Landrum for data-related questions – mlandrum@kyha.com

Missed a webinar? All presentations are recorded and can be found under the events & education link.