



# HOUSE BILL 93: Require Naloxone Scripts with Opioid Scripts.

2021-2022 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Insurance. If favorable, re-refer to Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 9, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Sasser, Humphrey, Moffitt, Adcock	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jason Moran-Bates Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 93 would require practitioners who prescribe Schedule II controlled substances to co-prescribe an opioid antagonist when the prescription for the Schedule II controlled substance is for 50 or more morphine milligram equivalents per day, is concurrently prescribed with benzodiazepine, or when the patient presents an increased risk for overdose. Practitioners would be required to educate the patient and a person designated by the patient on overdose prevention. Finally, the bill would permit licensing boards to sanction providers who refused to comply.

**CURRENT LAW:** Pursuant to current law, the State Health Director has prescribed an opioid antagonist by means of a statewide standing order.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The bill would require practitioners who prescribe Schedule II controlled substances to co-prescribe an opioid antagonist approved by the Food and Drug Administration if any of the following apply:

- The dosage of the prescription for the Schedule II controlled substance is 50 or more morphine milligram equivalents per day.
- A benzodiazepine is concurrently prescribed with the Schedule II controlled substance.
- The patient presents with an increased risk of overdose

The practitioner must document the co-prescription of the opioid antagonist in the patient's medical record.

Practitioners would also be required to educate the patient and another individual designated by the patient on overdose prevention and the use of an opioid antagonist. A practitioner who failed to co-prescribe the opioid antagonist or provide the required education could be referred to a licensing board for administrative sanctions deemed appropriate by the board.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This bill would be effective October 1, 2021.

**BACKGROUND:** S.L. 2016-17 amended G.S. 90-12.7 to permit the State Health Director to issue a statewide standing order prescribing an opioid antagonist. The standing order allowed under G.S. 90-12.7 was issued March 12, 2018, and currently remains in effect. The order permits pharmacists to dispense an opioid antagonist to individuals at risk of overdosing, family members of individuals at risk of overdosing, or individuals who are in a position to assist a person at risk of overdosing.

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