

Access to naloxone eased in Louisiana, Utah

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Health, according to the article. "By making this medication and education widely available, people who overdose can get the antidote quickly and administer it safely. This will save lives."

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(HealthDay)—Health officials in Utah and Louisiana have issued orders to make naloxone more widely available in an effort to prevent overdose deaths, according to a report from the American Medical Association.

The state health officials issued a standing order for [naloxone](#), which increases access to the opioid overdose antidote, and allows participating pharmacists to dispense the drug to laypeople including caregivers, family, and friends of persons at risk of overdose, without a patient-specific prescription.

The standing order addresses a 12.4 percent increase in [overdose deaths](#) in Louisiana from 2014 to 2015. In Utah, more than 250 people died from a prescription opioid overdose in 2015 and more than 125 died of a [heroin overdose](#).

"This is an important step in our fight against the opioid epidemic," said Rebekah Gee, M.D., M.P.H., secretary of the Louisiana Department of

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