IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PATIENTS

Are you aware that a proven drug that can reverse opioid and heroin overdose is now available without a prescription?

Recent changes to Illinois law now allow pharmacists to dispense naloxone (also sold as Narcan and Evzio) without a prescription pursuant to a standing order from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Naloxone is a medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose, including overdose from heroin use. It is an “opioid antagonist,” which means that it chemically binds to opioid receptors and can block their effect.

Once naloxone is administered, it is critical that the patient seek emergency care because naloxone’s effect can be temporary. Patients should seek medical care immediately.

Here are examples of who might benefit from having naloxone on hand:

• Individuals who are struggling with opioid abuse
• A friend or loved one of someone struggling with opioid abuse

Naloxone is a life-saving tool, but not an alternative to addiction treatment.

If you are struggling with addiction, talk to your doctor about treatment options.

Illinois State Medical Society

www.isms.org