



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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## Health Insurer Committed to Overcoming the Opioid Crisis: Offering No-Cost Narcan and Naloxone

Community Health Options has expanded its pharmacy benefit for Members to fill prescriptions for overdose-reversing medications naloxone and Narcan with no co-pay or out-of-pocket expense. This eliminates cost as a hurdle to obtaining these life-saving drugs at a time when Maine is among the states hardest hit by the opioid epidemic.

While drug overdose deaths in Maine have decreased in the first quarter of 2019, the opioid crisis is still a public health epidemic according to Maine's Attorney General Aaron M. Frey. In Maine alone, 80% of all fatal drug overdoses are caused by opioids. Increased availability of naloxone, an overdose antidote, is believed to contribute to the decrease in recent overdose deaths.

Additionally, some Health Options' plans offer other benefits that support recovery which include, consultation and care management with a Clinical Specialist, no out-of-pocket expenses for the first three outpatient visits to a mental or behavioral health provider, support transitioning to and from intensive outpatient therapies and acute inpatient, as well as a behavioral health telehealth program. This telemedicine service, called Health Options Online, enables quicker and easier access to mental and behavioral health practitioners via smart phone, tablet, or computer.

"From day one, we have supported our members in recovery with meaningful coverage of substance use disorder treatment," said Kevin Lewis, CEO. "Making life-saving treatments of Narcan and naloxone available at no cost goes a step farther in our efforts to aid all of our Members suffering from addiction and safely facilitate recovery." Health Options is Maine's largest healthcare carrier for the individual market and has a growing share of group business within the state.

For more information, visit [HealthOptions.org](http://HealthOptions.org) or call (855) 624-6463.

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**About Community Health Options** – Community Health Options (Health Options) is the only Maine-based, non-profit, Member-led health plan providing comprehensive, Member-focused health insurance benefits for individuals, families, and businesses. For more information about Health Options, visit the website: [HealthOptions.org](http://HealthOptions.org).