



XXXX: Opioid Overdose Response (AP)

Approved: 25 10 07

BACKGROUND

This procedure on opioid overdose response, is intended to establish guidelines and procedures for the utilization of naloxone, an opioid antagonist or “reversal agent” administered by members of the School District in response to an opioid overdose emergency.

All schools in the Pacific Rim School District will maintain on-site naloxone in designated spots in each facility. To treat a suspected opioid overdose in a school setting, a staff member trained in opioid overdose response may administer naloxone to any student or staff suspected of having an opioid-related drug overdose. Further, the Emergency Health Services Act allows all health care professionals (regulated and non-regulated), first responders, and citizens to administer naloxone in non-hospital settings.

DEFINITIONS

Naloxone: Naloxone HCL (Narcan): pure opioid antagonist. Naloxone temporarily reverses the effects of opioids by competing for the same receptor sites. Naloxone is available in British Columbia without a prescription and is administered by injection into a muscle or internally.

Opioid: Depressant medication typically used for pain relief that has the potential to slow breathing and heart rate. They may be prescribed or obtained from an illicit market. Common opioids include heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, morphine, methadone and hydromorphone.

Overdose: An overdose is a physiological event induced by the introduction of a substance or substances in the body of a person.

Opioid Overdose: An acute life-threatening event that requires medical assistance. Defined as the body’s response to excessive opioids which results in unconsciousness, respiratory depression and pinpoint pupils.

School Administrator: The individual in charge of the daily operations of the school.

Staff: Any employee employed by the School District.

Trained Opioid Overdose Responder: A School District staff member with Opioid Overdose Response training as recommended by the local health authority including the administration of the opioid antagonist naloxone.

PROCUREMENT OF NALOXONE

The Director of Operations will be responsible for the procurement of naloxone and replacing supplies prior to expiration dates.

At minimum, each school site should have following supplies contained within a naloxone kit:

Injectable Naloxone Kit		
Item	Manufacturer	Quantity
Naloxone Ampoules (0.4mg/mL)	NARCAN	3
Vanish Point Syringes – Retractable (3mL)	Various	3
Plastic ampoule breakers	Various	3



Nitrile Gloves	Various	1
Mask/Barrier Device	Various	1
Alcohol Swabs	Various	1

STORAGE OF NALOXONE

Naloxone kits will be stored with other emergency medical supplies for easy access when required. Naloxone will be stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Inspection of the naloxone and ancillary kit item shall be conducted regularly including regular review of the expiration date

TRAINING

Opioid overdoses response training including the administration of naloxone can be provided in person, virtually or through online courses. Recommended training resources:

[Naloxone Course | Toward the Heart](#)

Staff should be aware that overdose response, like many other emergency response protocols, may involve health and safety issues. District health and safety protocols should always be followed

SUSPECTED OPIOID OVERDOSE RESPONSE AND NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION

In the case of a suspected opioid overdose a Trained Opioid Overdose Responder shall follow the protocols outlined in their opioid overdose response training including the administration of naloxone.

IMPORTANT

- Call 9-1-1 immediately when an opioid overdose is suspected
- Naloxone can be administered by non-health care professionals before emergency assistance becomes available, BUT it is not a substitute for medical attention.

Even when naloxone is unavailable breaths can save a life.

1. Check for signs of overdose

- Breathing is slow, irregular or stopped
- Gurgling or snoring-like sound
- Pupils are very small/constricted/pinpoint
- Lips and nailbeds may be blue, skin cold and clammy
- Person is minimally responsive or unresponsive
- Slow or absent heart rate
- Person may be rigid or experience seizure
- Vomiting



2. Follow the SAVE ME step

Follow the **SAVE ME steps below to respond.**

If the person must be left unattended at any time, put them in the recovery position.





Stimulate
Unresponsive? **CALL 911**



Airway



Ventilate
1 breath every 5 seconds



Evaluate

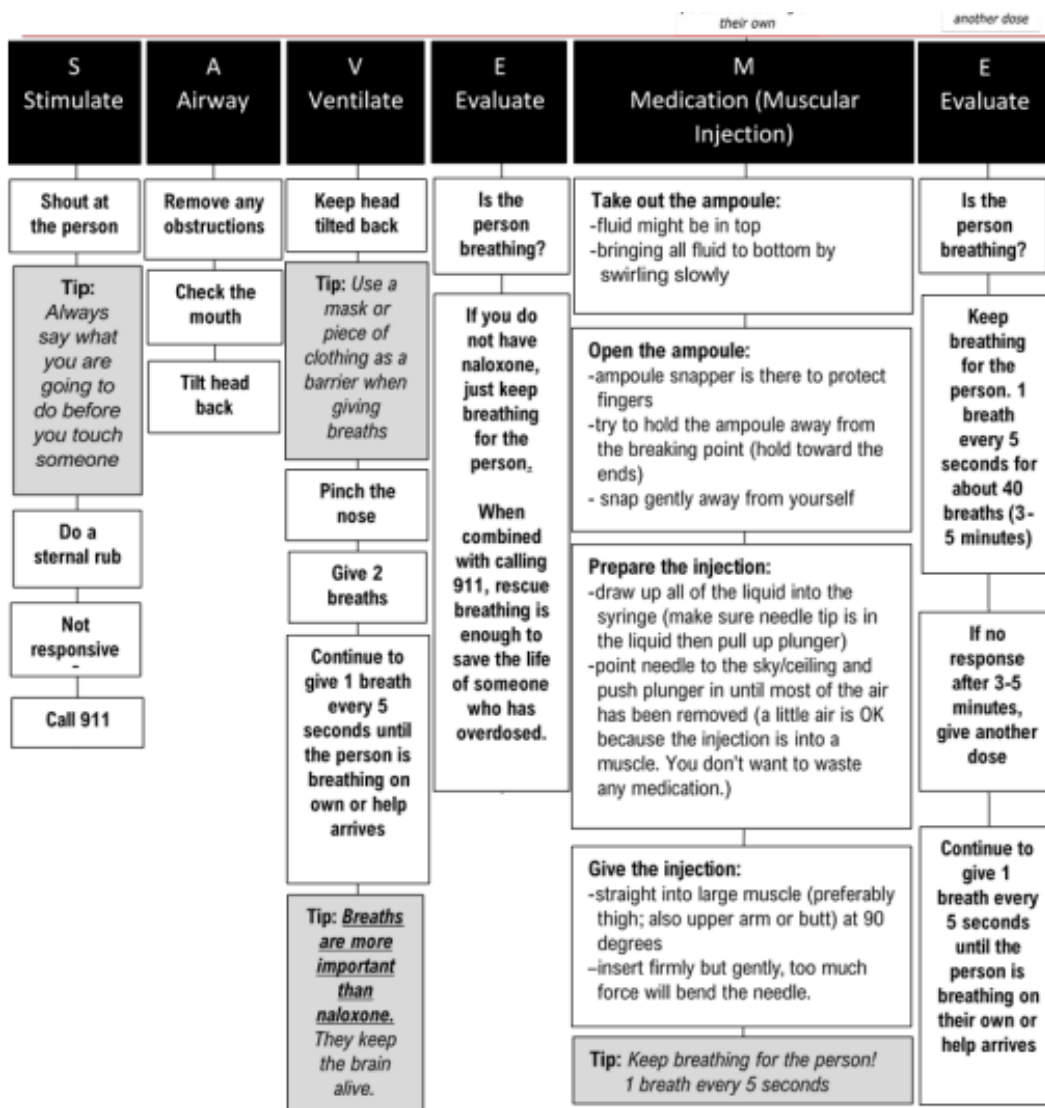


Muscular Injection
1 mL of naloxone



Evaluate
2nd dose?

Source: Toward the Heart – BC Center for Disease





3. Muscular Injection of Naloxone

Administering NARCAN™ Injectable



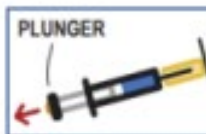
Take 1 ampoule out from the medicine bottle



Snap off the top of the ampoule. It will break in two pieces with little pressure.



Swirl ampoule in circles to get all liquid to bottom



Unwrap syringe, put needle in liquid, pull up plunger. Try to draw up all of the ampoule's liquid into the syringe.



Push air out of syringe. Turn the needle facing tip-up, gently push the plunger until most of the air is pushed out.



Firmly push needle in thigh, butt, or upper arm muscle. Needle can go through clothes. Never put it in the heart.



Push plunger down hard. It will click and needle will retract.



Person still unresponsive after 3 – 5 minutes? Give another injection. Continue to give 1 breath every 5 seconds.

Continue to give 1 breath every 5 seconds.

Stay with the person until the ambulance arrives.

If you need to leave, or if the person becomes ill, put them in the recovery position:





4. AFTERCARE

- Tell first responders what happened. Be prepared to provide Emergency Services/First Responders information regarding suspected overdose and treatment provided.

5. POST – INCIDENT RESPONSE

- Overdose response incidents can be traumatic for those who respond to and witness overdose. The District Critical Incident Response and Debrief Protocols should be followed by an overdose.
- Proceed with all the required School District Health and Safety reporting.
- The Director of Operations will acquire supplies in a timely manner to restock naloxone kits.

Resources and References

Island Health
Towards the Heart program
BC Communicable Disease Control
Harm Reduction Services