

NALOXONE

MEDICATION REVIEW

- **Opioid addiction is a national crisis, and overdose can be reversed by naloxone (aka Narcan)**
 - **Per OEC 6, naloxone can be given by trained patrollers if approved by management**

Naloxone (aka Narcan) is medication which can now be obtained over the counter that is used to reverse opioid/opiate overdose. Opioids and opiates are drugs like heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone, Vicodin, Percocet, etc. which bind to opioid receptors in the brain. This causes a variety of effects, the most concerning of which is respiratory suppression leading to apnea and death.

Naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist, and it has a greater affinity for opioid receptors in the brain than the opiate drug itself. This effectively “kicks out” the toxic drug from this receptor and reverses it’s effect – albeit for just a brief period of time (30-90 minutes). Unlike other medications mentioned in OEC, naloxone is extraordinarily safe and can be immediately lifesaving. It should be considered as part of “B” in your ABCs when treating an opiate overdose victim.

The use of naloxone by patrollers will likely only increase with OEC6 allowing for it pending training and local management approval. Essentially, you will have a device that atomizes the medication, which is sprayed into the nose of your overdose patient. There are several difference devices which can deliver this medication, so there is not a great “one size fits all” instruction manual to practically describe it’s administration and this will depend on which device your hill decides to go with. The most commonly found over the counter device is pictured below and instructional videos on it’s use can easily be found online, and administration will be covered during training if your hill pursues this.

Consider developing a protocol with your local Medical Adviser, hands on training for administration at your next refresher, and seeking approval of use by patrollers by hill management.



Naloxone (Narcan)

Dose:

- 2-4mg sprayed intranasally

Indication:

- Suspected opioid/opiate overdose

Contraindications:

- Allergy/hypersensitivity to naloxone