

ADMINISTRATION OF NASAL NALOXONE (NARCAN)

Background

There has been a substantial increase of deaths in Canada and in Alberta related to the misuse of opioids such as fentanyl. In response to this crisis, HPSPD has made Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) kits available at secondary schools (includes Outreach schools).

HPSPD is committed to promoting a safe and healthy workplace and has developed this Administrative Procedure as an emergency response procedure if an individual experiences an opioid related poisoning on HPSPD owned property.

Definitions

Opioids - Drugs used to relieve pain. The most common forms are:

Codeine, Oxycodone, Methadone, Hydromorphone, and Fentanyl.

Opioids can be pharmaceutical-grade and prescribed by physicians and surgeons. Prescription opioids can end up for illegal sale. These can be altered or tainted with other compounds, including fentanyl.

Fentanyl - a very strong, odorless, and tasteless synthetic narcotic about 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine. Non-illicit fentanyl is typically prescribed to control severe pain.

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is being imported, mixed with other drugs and illegally sold in pill form (fake OxyContin and other club drugs) or powder form (as heroin or fentanyl) and powder form mixed into other drugs (e.g., cocaine, crystal meth, etc.). Three or 4 grains of fentanyl may be enough to kill an average adult.

Carfentanil - a synthetic opioid approximately one hundred times more potent than Fentanyl. It is used in veterinary medicine as a sedative or anesthetic agent for large animals.

Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) - an opioid inhibitor that blocks opioids by binding to the same receptors in the brain, effectively creating a temporary barrier to opioids. Delivered by intranasal spray.

Trained Opioid Overdose Responder - A School Division staff member on the site designated first aid team with Opioid Overdose Response training including the administration of the opioid antagonist naloxone.

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.

Procedures

1. Medication

- 1.1. The selection for storing Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) will depend on a variety of factors such as budget, storage space, and training.

2. Location and Storage

- 2.1. HPSPD authorizes the placement of Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) at secondary schools. Each site will be responsible for determining the optimal storage location for their site.
- 2.2. The following will be considered prior to placement:
 - 2.2.1. Response Time – retrieving the Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) in a timely manner is important. Authorized users must have access to the medication during an emergency.
 - 2.2.2. Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) will be stored in a secure location that prevents tampering, theft, and/ or misuse, and restricts access by unauthorized individuals.
 - 2.2.3. Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) storage will be clearly marked, unobstructed and readily accessible for emergency situations.

- 2.2.4. The minimum quantity to be stored at each approved location will be 1 Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) Kit (contains 2 doses).
- 2.2.5. The location of the Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) will be made known to all school employees by way of e-mail and during Health and Safety meetings.

3. Maintenance

- 3.1. Each school's designated safety representative will be the Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) Kit Coordinator, to ensure inspections of the medications are conducted and recorded. Records of inspection will be kept and recorded in Public School Works.
- 3.2. Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) kits will be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that the medication is not expired and is readily available for use.
- 3.3. Ordering of replacement kits will be done by the HPSD Safety Coordinator.
- 3.4. If the Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) has been removed from the school for any reason, the principal will advise the Safety Coordinator of its removal.

4. Training

- 4.1. Before Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) kits are placed at the schools, selected staff at the school will be provided training regarding the appropriate administration of Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone). Staff will be trained on a voluntary basis.
- 4.2. Authorized users will be provided any necessary support to become familiar with the procedures required.
- 4.3. All authorized users will be informed of details with respect to their rights and responsibilities regarding administration of Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone).
- 4.4. A record of authorized users will be placed at the storage site as well as posted in common staff gathering areas (i.e., staff rooms).
- 4.5. The principal is responsible to ensure that the minimum number of staff trained is maintained at each school.
- 4.6. Training will be provided for a minimum of four selected employees. Training will include:
 - 4.6.1. Opioid poisoning prevention;
 - 4.6.2. Recognizing an opioid poisoning – signs and symptoms;
 - 4.6.3. Responding to an opioid poisoning – SAVE ME; and,
 - 4.6.4. Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) – medication effects

5. Exposure to Opioids

- 5.1. Direct exposure to opioids can occur when a responder must actively handle the drug (i.e. moving it from the person) or incidental exposure when performing first aid, airborne particles or cleaning the area after assisting a suspected opioid poisoning. However exposed, inhalation of powder or skin absorption can lead to unintentional opioid poisoning.
- 5.2. Routes of Exposure
 - 5.2.1. If encountered, Fentanyl powder and powder residue can affect the health of first responders. Routes that fentanyl can be absorbed by the body include:
 - 5.2.1.1. Eyes – Aerosolized Fentanyl powder and residue can be absorbed through the eyes.
 - 5.2.1.2. Inhalation - Fentanyl can be dangerous if inhaled.
 - 5.2.1.3. Aerosolized / misting of fentanyl powder/residue can incapacitate responders.
 - 5.2.1.4. Ingestion - Fentanyl can be lethal should incidental ingestion occur.
 - 5.2.1.5. Absorption - Fentanyl can be absorbed through unbroken skin; it does take some time for this to occur (hours to days). It can also be absorbed quickly by touching the mouth or eyes with contaminated hands.
- 5.3. Reducing Exposure
 - 5.3.1. The following steps must always be following when responding to a suspected opioid poisoning:
 - 5.3.1.1. Assess the area when approaching, determine the hazards that are present, avoid disturbing any powders;
 - 5.3.1.2. Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and CPR masks; and,
 - 5.3.1.3. Avoid handling the drug and do not open any packages.

6. Medical Emergency Protocol

- 6.1. Existing Medical Emergency Protocol will be followed:
 - 6.1.1. Step 1: Call 911 and contact the school office.
 - 6.1.2. Step 2: Send for/ obtain first aid kit, a school first aider and AED if required.
 - 6.1.3. Step 3: Direct students/ bystanders away from the area.
 - 6.1.4. Step 4: Administer First Aid and Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) for suspected opioid poisoning. Stay with the casualty until medical aid arrives. Responding using the 'SAVE ME' procedures provided in approved training.
 - 6.1.5. Step 5 Complete incident report, record all details of incident, including quantities of Narcan Nasal Spray used and detail the first aid given.

7. Post Incident Review

- 7.1. When Narcan Nasal Spray (Naloxone) is administered for a suspected opioid poisoning, the principal shall notify the Safety Coordinator of its use immediately.
- 7.2. An online Public School Works report of the incident must be completed within 24 hours of the occurrence which will include all details of the incident and any witness statements.
- 7.3. All incidents will be investigated in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety practices.
- 7.4. HPSD will provide support to the first responders or witnesses of any traumatic event.

References

Part 1, Section 3,4,5 OHS Act

Emergency Medical Aid Act Section 2b

Grande Prairie Public School Division Administrative Procedure 158

Alberta Health Services: Drug Safe

Get Naloxone

Addiction Information for Teachers & Schools

Community Based Naloxone Program

AB Occupational Health and Safety Bulletin - Naloxone in the workplace