

# Naloxone Kit Distribution Policy

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Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for distribution of Take-Home Naloxone Kits from the \_\_\_\_\_ (hospital) Emergency Department for individuals who are at risk of experiencing and/or likely to witness or respond to an opioid overdose. Distribution of Naloxone Kits to these individuals will facilitate access to naloxone and reduce the risk of death from opioid overdose.

## POLICY STATEMENT

Naloxone is available at no charge from community pharmacies, Public Health Units, and harm reduction agencies. To help reduce the number of opioid-related overdose deaths in the community, \_\_\_\_\_ (hospital) will provide Take-Home Naloxone Kits to individuals attending the Emergency Department who are at risk of experiencing and/or likely to witness or respond to an opioid overdose.

Emergency Department leadership will ensure that Public Health standards for Naloxone Kit storage, distribution, and documentation are met.

Naloxone Kits may be distributed by any \_\_\_\_\_ (hospital) staff member who is either an authorized prescriber (i.e., a physician or nurse practitioner) or in receipt of an order from an authorized prescriber and has received training on the distribution procedure (see Competency Guidelines below).

## DEFINITIONS

**Naloxone:** A competitive antagonist at opioid receptor sites used to reverse the effects of opioids. It is a Schedule II drug when used for opioid overdose.

**Individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose:** Individuals who meet any of the following criteria:

- Currently using any prescribed opioids for chronic pain and/or opioid use disorder.
- Uses opioids purchased from the street.
- Has a history of opioid use and has recently been discharged from an abstinence-focused setting (e.g., abstinence-based residential treatment program, withdrawal management centre, jail, hospital).
- Has previously experienced an opioid overdose.

## PROCEDURE

### Emergency Department staff:

1. Confirm prescriber order received.
2. Retrieve Take-Home Naloxone Kit from medication room or designated storage area.
3. Record patient's name and date on pre-printed Take-Home Naloxone Kit label and affix to kit.
4. Print Naloxone Distribution Record.
5. Give Take-Home Naloxone Kit to patient.
6. Provide patient with training on the use of naloxone as outlined in Naloxone Kit Distribution Record.
7. Complete Naloxone Kit Distribution Record.
8. Send copy of Naloxone Kit Distribution Record to Pharmacy.
9. File original Naloxone Kit Distribution Record in patient's health record.

### Pharmacy Services:

1. File Naloxone Distribution Records as required and retain as per usual standards.

## COMPETENCY GUIDELINES

### Complete the necessary training and ongoing education to gain the skill, knowledge, and judgment to do the following:

- Provide assessments and have knowledge of indications for Naloxone Kit distribution.
- Understand the function of naloxone as an opioid antagonist.
- Provide education to patients, families, and caregivers on administration of naloxone.
- Follow the \_\_\_\_\_ (hospital) policy and procedures.
- Follow relevant regulatory college standards.

### Staff will inform and provide education to Naloxone Kit recipients about the following:

- Naloxone
- Naloxone Kit contents
- Signs and symptoms of opioid withdrawal
- Actions and steps to follow when someone is having an opioid overdose
- How to administer naloxone

Confirm that the Naloxone Kit recipient understands the information by asking them to repeat the information in their own words, and address any questions or concerns the Naloxone Kit recipient has.

## EQUIPMENT

- Naloxone Kit
- Naloxone Kit Distribution Record

## DOCUMENTATION

- Naloxone Kit Distribution Record

## APPROVED BY: