

Administration of Naloxone (Narcan)- Revised

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Subject: Administration of Naloxone (Narcan)
Issued By: Annette M. Mecklenburg, Chief of Police

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines when administering Naloxone (also known by the brand name Narcan). The objective is to treat and reduce the injury and fatality from opiate overdoses.

POLICY

The Cleveland Heights Police Department requires all sworn personnel to be trained in the use of Naloxone and that they will carry Naloxone in the passenger compartment of their assigned vehicles while on duty. Additionally, a Naloxone kit will be stored in the jail.

DEFINITIONS

Opiate – An opiate is a controlled substance that is derived from the opium poppy or that mimics the effect of an opiate (a synthetic opiate). Opiate drugs are narcotic sedatives that depress activity of the central nervous system, reduce pain, and induce sleep. Commonly encountered opiates in police service include heroin, morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, Percocet, methadone, codeine, and hydrocodone

Naloxone – Naloxone (also known as Narcan) is an opioid antagonist that can be used to counter the effects of opiate overdose (i.e. prescription pain medication or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

PROCEDURES

I. TRAINING

A. Subsequent to completing the required training, an officer will be permitted to carry a Naloxone kit with him/her at all times while on duty. Training shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. The signs of opioid overdose; and
- B. The use of Naloxone (Narcan)

II. STORAGE

A. Naloxone should be stored at room temperature and away from light. It should not be left in a vehicle for extended periods of time and should not be subjected to extreme heat or cold (it will freeze) as it may impact the effectiveness of the medication.

- B. The shelf life of Naloxone is approximately two years. All doses should be checked periodically to ensure that the Naloxone is not adulterated. A dose of Naloxone is considered adulterated when:
- It is beyond the manufacturer's or distributor's expiration date; and/or
 - There are signs of discoloration or particulate matter in the Naloxone solution.
- An inventory of Naloxone kits with the expiration date, the sign out sheets, and to whom the medication was dispensed will be kept in the OIC's office.

III. ISSUANCE OF NALOXONE

- A. Naloxone kits are to be stored in the main Storage Room of the Police Department. They will be individually numbered to ensure accurate tracking of the kits. The Officer in Charge is responsible for signing out the kits at the start of an Officer's shift and ensuring that they are returned and signed back in at the end of the shift. Officers must complete the required training through the Police Academy prior to being permitted to carry Naloxone while on duty.

IV. ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE

- A. Naloxone may be used when responding to a call where the officer reasonably believes that a person is experiencing an opioid related overdose. The following, although not inclusive, can be considered determining factors:
- When advised by dispatch and/or persons on the scene of suspected opioid overdose;
 - When the scene suggests opioid drug use: drugs and/or drug paraphernalia;
 - Physical signs of victim indicating opioid overdose: unresponsive, absence of breathing or no pulse, no response to painful stimuli, bluish lips, etc.
- B. The officer will immediately notify dispatch to have emergency medical personnel respond and administer the Naloxone as trained. The officer will continue to render the appropriate first aid until the arrival of emergency medical personnel.
- C. The officer will document all actions in a written report.
- D. Per Ohio Revised Code Section 2925.61(D) a peace officer employed by a law enforcement agency is not subject to administrative action or criminal prosecution if the peace officer, acting in good faith, obtains Naloxone from the peace officer's law enforcement agency and administers the Naloxone to an individual who is apparently experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

V. DOCUMENTATION/REPORTING

- A. Upon completing medical assistance, the officer shall submit a report detailing the nature of the incident, the care the person received and the fact that Naloxone was administered.
- B. The Officer will complete the Cuyahoga County Administration form which is located in the OIC's Office and fax it Project DAWN at (216) 778-2400. The original form is to be included with the report.

Approved by the order of

Annette M. Mecklenburg, Chief of Police
(GENERAL POLICE ORDER #02-2016)