

Anne Arundel County  
School Health Services

Policy

**NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE**

**I. DEFINITION**

Opioid overdose occurs when the amount of opioid in the body is so great the individual becomes unresponsive to stimuli and breathing becomes inadequate. Lack of oxygen affects vital organs, including the heart and brain, leading to unconsciousness, coma, and eventually death. Naloxone/NARCAN® is indicated for the reversal of opioid overdose in the presence of respiratory depression or unresponsiveness.

**II. INFORMATION/GUIDELINES**

This procedure is to be used in conjunction with the “Standing Order for Administration of Naloxone” to provide treatment to unresponsive individuals in the school setting.

Body System	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE
Mouth/Throat	Loud, uneven snoring or gurgling noises (death rattle)
Lungs	Shallow, slow breaths (fewer than 10 per minute) or not breathing at all
Skin	Pale, blue or gray, clammy
Heart	Slow or erratic pulse (heartbeat) Blue lips or fingertips (from lack of oxygen)
Mental	Unresponsive to stimuli such as noise or sternal rub Unconsciousness
Other	Constricted (pinpoint) pupils Very limp body

**III. EQUIPMENT**

- Naloxone Hydrochloride and Intranasal Mucosal Atomization Device OR
- NARCAN® Nasal Spray one piece pre-assembled nasal device

**IV. PROCEDURE**

1. Attempt to rouse and stimulate the student/patient (perform sternal rub by making a fist; rub your knuckles firmly up and down the breast bone).
2. Call 911, Request AED.
3. If possible, monitor and record respirations, heart rate and blood pressure. Note suspected opiate overdose (as evidenced by pinpoint pupils, depressed mental status, etc.).

4. If available, administer naloxone/NARCAN®

### **NALOXONE**

- a. Remove yellow caps from needle-less syringe. Attach the nasal atomizer (applicator) onto the top of needle-less syringe. Remove purple cap from prefilled vial of naloxone. Thread vial into needle-less syringe by gently twisting naloxone until you feel it “catch”. **DO NOT PUSH VIAL INTO SYRINGE.** Expel air.
- b. Tilt the person’s head back and spray half of naloxone up one nostril and the other half of naloxone up the other nostril.

*IMPORTANT: In an emergency, if you do not have the atomizer, you can squirt the naloxone into the person’s nose as directed without the atomizer.*

### **NARCAN®**

- c. Peel back the package to remove the device. Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and two fingers on the nozzle. Place and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the patient’s nose. Tilt head back. Press the plunger firmly to release the dose into the patient’s nose.
  - d. Continue to perform rescue breathing/CPR as necessary.
5. Start rescue breathing if not breathing or CPR if there is no pulse.
  6. Notify parent and school administrator.
  7. Allow **1-3 minutes for medication to work.** If there is no change to the person’s condition after 2-3 minutes, give another dose of naloxone/NARCAN® as in **Step 4** above and continue rescue breathing as necessary.
  8. Administer CPR if indicated.
  9. Stay with the person until medical help arrives. Notify EMS of naloxone administration.
  10. Within 2 hours, notify Poison Control of naloxone/NARCAN® administration.
  11. Notify School Health Services office as well as Program Supervisor.
  12. Document event on “Naloxone Use Report” as well as “Record of Health Room Visit” form. Both forms are to be faxed to the Program Supervisor.