

State of Iowa Department of Corrections

Policy and Procedures

Policy Number: CBC-05

Applicability: CBC

Policy Code: Public Access

Iowa Code Reference: NA

Chapter 12: Community Based Corrections

Sub Chapter: NA

Related DOC Policies: NA

Administrative Code Reference: NA

Subject: Opioid Overdose or Exposure Recognition and Response

ACA Standards: NA

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Authority:

1. PURPOSE

To describe the procedures utilized by the Iowa Department of Corrections Department of Correctional Services Facilities in maintaining supplies of Naloxone to help in case of an opioid-related drug overdose or exposure event.

2. POLICY

CBC Staff will monitor offenders, staff, and visitors to identify situations where persons may be experiencing an opioid-related overdose or exposure, and will be capable of responding with the activation of the EMS system, CPR and rescue breathing if appropriate, and the administration of Narcan (Naloxone) Nasal Spray.

3. DEFINITIONS

- A. Respiratory depression - Slow breathing, less than 1 breath every 5 seconds or no breathing at all.

- B. Unresponsiveness - Slow, erratic, or no pulse; no response when you tap the person's shoulder and shout "Are you OK?"
- C. Naloxone - A prescription medication indicated for reversal of opioid-related drug overdose or exposure.
- D. Standing order - The authorization, issued pursuant to Iowa Senate Files 2218 and House File 2460, which permits an Iowa pharmacy to distribute Naloxone to certain eligible recipients without a doctor's prescription written for a specific individual, when the pharmacist has complied with the rules of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy.

4. PROCEDURES

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to all CBC staff and shall be updated as needed by the appropriate Judicial District Staff member or designee.

- A. The Iowa DOC has established a standing order as allowed under the Iowa Code and Iowa Board of Pharmacy rules which permits the dispensing of Naloxone to individuals or settings where an overdose or exposure may occur that is caused by an opioid drug. Narcan Nasal Spray has been chosen as the form of Naloxone to be kept and utilized in both DOC correctional facilities and CBC locations.
- B. Each CBC location will be responsible for determining the quantity of Narcan Nasal Spray to be kept at each location; the medication comes in a box containing two sprays and should be stored in a secure location unopened until used.
- C. All staff shall be responsible for reading the Iowa Department of Public Health informational pamphlet "Opioid Overdose Recognition and Response" that is provided with the Narcan Nasal Spray as part of the training and education which is required by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy as a condition of the medication's dispensing. The directions for the ready-to-use nasal spray are found within this pamphlet as well as contained in the package of Narcan.
- D. All staff shall also receive specific training as required by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy:
 - 1. All CBC staff (including new hires) must receive an instructor led training - in person or via real time webinar - to clarify the procedure for Naloxone use, and to provide the opportunity for questions.

2. The training will include information on:
 - a. Signs and symptoms of opioid overdose/exposure;
 - b. Steps to be taken when an opioid overdose/exposure is suspected;
 - c. How to use the Narcan Nasal Spray;
 - d. Necessary documentation;
 - e. How to obtain replacement supplies.
 3. Once the training has been completed, the designated staff member may then use the supply of Narcan.
 4. After the initial training, a yearly training review will be required of all staff at that location, to be done via E-Learning.
- E. Persons exposed to opioids or experiencing an opioid overdose may have the following symptoms:
1. Slow or no breathing;
 2. Pale, clammy face and skin; blue lips and nails;
 3. Slow, erratic, or no pulse;
 4. Unresponsive, often with agonal breathing, which is similar to snoring or gurgling noises.
- F. If an opioid overdose or exposure is suspected, the following steps should be taken:
1. Call 911 or activate the EMS system according to facility procedure;
 2. Try to wake the person by tapping their shoulder and shouting "Are you OK?";
 3. If trained, initiate CPR and/or rescue breathing if patient has no pulse and/or is not breathing;
 4. If not trained, continue to next step, Narcan administration;

5. Administer one dose of Narcan Nasal Spray according to the package directions: one spray in ONE nostril;
 6. Continue CPR and/or rescue breathing until emergency services arrive;
 7. If patient does not respond in two to three minutes, a second dose of Narcan can be administered in the opposite nostril; doses can be repeated every two to three minutes until EMS arrives or patient responds.
- G. Following Naloxone administration, persons who have been taking opioids may be disoriented, combative, or uncomfortable; opioid withdrawal symptoms can be unpleasant. Patients may need comfort. In addition, the Naloxone effects will subside within 90 minutes to two hours and the patient's overdose/exposure effects may reoccur, so it is critical that the patient receive emergency medical assistance.
- H. Any use of Narcan Nasal Spray should result in the creation of a Critical Incident Report.
- I. Replenishment or replacement of outdated supplies of Narcan Nasal Spray may be done by contacting the DOC Central Pharmacy, 420 Mill Street SW, Mitchellville, IA 50169, 515-725-5065. The dispensing of the medication will include a signed receipt from the CBC staff member receiving the supply, as is required by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy.