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## **Standing Order for the Possession, Distribution, and Administration of Naloxone**

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist indicated for the reversal of respiratory depression or unresponsiveness caused by an opioid overdose.

1. This standing order authorizes Grand Forks Public Health Department to maintain supplies of naloxone for the following purposes:
  - a. Distribution of naloxone kits as a part of community harm reduction efforts.
  - b. Administration to an individual experiencing a suspected opioid overdose.
2. This standing order authorizes Grand Forks Public Health Department to possess and distribute naloxone to individuals that may respond to opioid overdoses upon completion of naloxone administration training.
3. This standing order authorizes trained individuals that may respond to opioid overdoses to possess and administer naloxone to a person experiencing a suspected opioid overdose.
4. This standing order authorizes Grand Forks Public Health Department to maintain supplies of, possess, and administer naloxone in the following forms:
  - a. Naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray devices available in 0.4 mg to 4 mg dosages. This includes but is not limited to the Narcan® Nasal Spray device from Adapt Pharma
  - b. Commercially available naloxone hydrochloride auto-injection devices available in 0.4mg to 2mg dosages intended for intramuscular or subcutaneous injection.
  - c. Naloxone hydrochloride 0.4mg – 2mg vials or prefilled syringes for intramuscular injection or intranasal administration with a nasal mucosal atomization device.
5. This standing order authorizes Grand Forks Public Health Department to distribute naloxone kits to trained individuals that may respond to opioid overdoses. These kits shall include:
  - a. Intramuscular naloxone kit
    - i. Two single-use 1mL vials of naloxone hydrochloride (0.4 mg/ml)
    - ii. Two intramuscular needle syringes
    - iii. Step-by-step instructions for administration of intramuscular naloxone
    - iv. Must be labeled: Inject 1 mL intramuscularly upon signs of opioid overdose. Call 911. May repeat once if no response within 2-3 minutes.
  - b. Intranasal naloxone kit
    - i. Two pre-filled intranasal devices containing naloxone hydrochloride in a syringe with mucosal atomization device
    - ii. Step-by-step instructions for administration of intranasal naloxone
    - iii. Must be labeled: Spray 1 mL (one-half of syringe) into each nostril upon signs of opioid overdose. Call 911. May repeat once if no response within 2-3 minutes.

- c. Naloxone auto-injector kit
    - i. Naloxone hydrochloride pre-packaged kit containing two auto-injectors
    - ii. Step-by-step instructions for administration of naloxone via auto-injector
    - iii. Must be labeled: Use one auto-injector upon signs of opioid overdose. Call 911. May repeat once if no response within 2-3 minutes.
  - d. Intranasal branded naloxone kit
    - i. Two pre-filled commercially produced intranasal devices containing naloxone hydrochloride (4 mg / 0.1 mL)
    - ii. Step-by-step instructions for administration of intranasal naloxone
    - iii. Must be labeled: Spray 0.1 mL (contents of one device) into one nostril upon signs of opioid overdose. Call 911. May repeat once if no response within 2-3 minutes.
6. This standing order delegates training on the administration of naloxone to qualified personnel of Grand Forks Public Health and requires Grand Forks Public Health Department to maintain a record of training for staff who distribute naloxone kits.

# Procedure for Administration of Naloxone

## Drug Information:

*Drug name:* Naloxone hydrochloride

*Brand Name:* Narcan, Evzio

*Medication Class:* Opioid Antagonist

*Mechanism of Action:* Reverses the effects of opioid medications including respiratory depression and unresponsiveness

*Indications:* Respiratory depression or unresponsiveness due to suspected opioid overdose

*Route:* 2 - 4 mg intranasal via nasal atomization device

0.4 - 2 mg intramuscular

*Contraindications:* Known sensitivity to naloxone hydrochloride

*Precautions:*

- Pre-existing cardiac disease or seizure disorder
- Persons who are known or suspected to be physically dependent on opioids may experience acute abstinence syndrome or opioid withdrawal from reversal of narcotic effect.
- Use in pregnancy:
  - Pregnancy Category C – No adequate or well-controlled studies in pregnant women.
  - Pregnant women known or suspected to have opioid dependence often have associated fetal dependence. Naloxone crosses the placenta and may precipitate fetal withdrawal symptoms.
- Nursing mothers: caution should be exercised when administering to nursing women due to transmission in human milk. Risks and benefits must be considered prior to administration.
- Geriatric Use: choose lower range doses taking precautions for decreased hepatic, renal, and cardiac function, as well as concomitant disease and drug therapy.

*Adverse Reactions:*

- Adverse reactions are related to reversing dependency and precipitating withdrawal and include fever, hypertension, tachycardia, agitation, restlessness, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, myalgias, diaphoresis, abdominal cramping, yawning, and sneezing.
  - These symptoms may appear within minutes of naloxone administration and subside in approximately 2 hours.
  - Severity and duration of the withdrawal symptoms is related to the dose of naloxone and the degree of opioid dependence.
- Adverse effects beyond opioid withdrawal are rare.

## Instructions for use:

### Indications and Usage

Naloxone is indicated for the complete or partial reversal of opioid overdose induced by natural or synthetic opioids and exhibited by respiratory depression or unresponsiveness.

## Directions for Use

1. Call 911 as soon as possible for a person suspected of an opioid overdose with respiratory depression or unresponsiveness, and initiate rescue breathing.
2. Administer naloxone as follows:
  - *Intramuscular Naloxone:*
    - Uncap the naloxone vial and uncap the intramuscular needle-syringe
    - Insert the intramuscular needle through the rubber membrane on the naloxone vial, turn the vial upside down, draw up 1cc of naloxone liquid, and withdraw the needle
    - Insert the needle into the muscle of the upper arm or thigh of the victim, through clothing if needed, and push on the plunger to inject the naloxone
    - Repeat the injection if there is no response after three minutes
  - *Intranasal Naloxone:*
    - **Pre-filled Syringe**
      - Pop off two colored caps from the delivery syringe and one from the naloxone vial
      - Screw the naloxone vial gently into the delivery syringe
      - Screw the mucosal atomizer device onto the top of the syringe
      - Spray half (1 ml) of naloxone in one nostril and the other half (1 ml) in the other nostril
      - Repeat if there is no response after three minutes
    - **Narcan® Nasal Spray**
      - Peel foil
      - Hold with index and middle fingers on either side, thumb on plunger
      - Do not prime plunger
      - Insert nasal atomizer until backs of fingers are against nostril
      - Push plunger until it stops
      - Give rescue breaths
      - If no response in 3-5 minutes, use additional atomizer in other nostril
  - *Auto-injector Naloxone:*
    - Pull auto-injector from outer case
    - Pull off red safety guard
    - Place the black end of the auto-injector against the outer thigh, through clothing if needed, press firmly and hold in place for 5 seconds
    - Repeat if there is no response after three minutes
3. Continue rescue breathing and monitor respiration and responsiveness of the naloxone recipient until emergency help arrives.

## **Authorization**

I have reviewed this standing order and procedure for the possession, administration, and distribution of naloxone by Grand Forks Public Health Department and hereby authorize the department to use this standing order and procedure as prescribed.

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**Dr. Joel Walz, MD**

Grand Forks Public Health Officer

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**Date**

## References

- Adapt Pharma. (2017, February). *NARCAN® NASAL SPRAY Prescribing Information*. Retrieved November 2, 2017, from <https://www.narcan.com/pdf/NARCAN-Prescribing-Information.pdf>
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