Nasal Naloxone Administration Training

What is naloxone?
• Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of an opioid in the body, which can be used to treat an opioid overdose

What can cause an opioid overdose?
• Opioids are a class of medications and drugs which cause intoxication, sleepiness, and decrease respiratory effort. When high doses of opioids are taken, breathing may stop – which can cause death.
• Examples of opioids include
  • Heroin
  • Codine (also known as Tylenol #3 or Tylenol #4)
  • Hydrocodone (also known as Norco, Vicodin, or Lortab)
  • Fentanyl (also known as Actiq, Subsys, Duragesic, Sublimaze)
  • Hydromorphone (also known as Dilaudid)

What can cause an opioid overdose?
• More examples of opioids include
  • Demerol
  • Oxycodone (also known as Oxycontin, Percocet, or Roxicodone)
  • Morphine (also known as MS contin, Kadian
  • Oxymorphone (also known as Opana)
  • Tramadol (also known as Ultram)
  • Buprenorphine (also known as Butrans, Subutex, Suboxone)

What does an opioid overdose look like?
• Fortunately, all of the different opioid produce the same effects in overdose (so you don’t have to worry about all the names)
• Signs of overdose on opioids:
  • Unresponsiveness
  • Small pupils
  • Slow breathing
  • Gurgling, shallow, or absent breathing

Other signs that suggest overdose
• What are other signs that a person may be unresponsive from an opioid overdose?
  • Bystander or family/friend history
  • Drug paraphernalia on scene
  • Empty prescription drug bottles on scene
  • The presence of medical patches on the body or in the person’s possession

What type of overdose will naloxone not treat?
• Meth
• Valium
• Xanax
• Alcohol
• Soma
Naloxone will ONLY reverse an overdose from an opioid

8 **Personal protection**
- Standard protocols for scene safety should be followed at all times
- Standard protocols for personal protective equipment for a medical call should be followed at all times
- As a nasal spray is used, there is no risk of a needlestick exposure
- As a side effect of opiate withdrawal caused by naloxone, people receiving the drug may vomit
  - To avoid any exposure, once nasal naloxone is given, patients – if safety allows – should be rolled onto their side in the recovery position – with the mouth aimed away from the officer

9 **Indications for naloxone**
- A person who is unresponsive, breathing slowly, or not breathing at all – with the cause known or suspected to be an opioid overdose

10 **Contraindications to naloxone**
- Allergy to naloxone
  - How would I know this?
    - Look for a medic alert band on the patient’s wrist that may suggest an allergy
    - Ask any bystanders on scene or family for a history of naloxone allergy
  - How common is this?
    - Extremely rare
    - No reported cases in the National Library of Medicine Database between 1975-2017
  - Don’t hold back out of fear of a possible allergy!

11 **Side effects of naloxone**
- In patients, chronically on opioids, treatment of an opioid overdose with naloxone can induce opioid withdrawal
- Symptoms may include
  - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
  - Sweating, Goosebumps
  - Yawning, Sneezing
  - Anxiety, Irritability
  - A transient elevation in blood pressure

12 **Side effects of naloxone**
- If naloxone is given to a person who does not have opioids in their system – there are no clinical effects

13 **Dosing and administration**
- Nasal naloxone comes in a pre-packaged nasal spray, containing 4 mg
- How to give it:
  - If you suspect a person is unresponsive or not breathing from an opioid overdose, administer the entire contents of one nasal spray into one nostril
  - If there is no response in 2 minutes, provide a second dose into the other nostril

14 **Mechanisms of Drug Action**
- Naloxone works in the body at the site where opioid molecules bind to opioid receptors
- Naloxone removes the opioid from the receptor, and blocks the receptor, blocking the effects of opioids

15 Medical asepsis
- As naloxone is given as a nasal spray without needles, there is no need for any pre-treatment with any sort of aseptic compound

16 Disposal of used items
- After a nasal spray unit is used, it should be placed back in the packaging, and returned to the department station for inventory purposes
- The used spray unit and packaging can be thrown away in any trash receptacle out of the reach of children

17 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGVSaO1oxpg&t=334s
Training video from Adept Pharma, the maker of Nasal Narcan Spray

18 Tips on administration
- As many users of heroin use needles, officers should make sure there are no needles on the ground or on the victim that could injure the officers before administering nasal naloxone
  - Routine safety procedures and precautions should be followed
- Administration of naloxone nasal spray is not a substitute for Emergency Medical Care
  - All patients receiving nasal naloxone must be assessed by EMS providers

19 Tips on administration
- In patients chronically on opioids, administration of naloxone can precipitate withdrawal
  - For this reason, to avoid unnecessary withdrawal – do not administer naloxone to patients who are simply intoxicated
  - Naloxone is indicated for life-threatening overdose – such as when a patient is unresponsive, breathing poorly, or not breathing at all
- If someone is dying from an overdose, do not hold back out of fear of causing withdrawal – as without naloxone, death may occur.

20 Law Enforcement Use of Naloxone Policy
- EMS System Policy 4512
- Prescribes procedure to administer naloxone
  - Recognize opioid overdose
  - Ensure EMS responds
  - Good First Aid, Rescue Breathing, and CPR, if indicated
  - Administer naloxone
  - Report use of naloxone to EMS Agency

21 Post Use Reporting
- Report through chain of command to EMS Agency within 48 hours
  - Department and Officer Information
  - Tracking Information
  - Initial Assessment
  - Treatment
  - Assessment After Treatment
- Protected Health Information (confidential)