

Procedure – Opioid Related Overdose Reversal

Opioid overdose reversal medication and rescue breathing are evidence-based interventions known to result in positive outcomes for individuals experiencing an opioid related overdose. The district shall utilize the *Opioid Related Overdose Policy Guidelines & Training in the School Setting* published by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Opioids and Overdose

Opioids are a class of drugs derived from opium poppy or entirely created in a lab. Opioids include morphine, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, heroin, meperidine, fentanyl, and methadone. There are prescription opioids and opioids that are created and obtained illicitly.

An opioid overdose happens when someone has taken too much of an opioid. Synthetic opioids such as Fentanyl are especially dangerous due to its potency and can be added to illicit street drugs. A person may experience non-life threatening effects such as nausea, vomiting, or sleepiness. A person may also experience life threatening effects that may lead to death, including infrequent or absent breathing, slowed or irregular heartbeat, no response to stimuli, and severe allergic reaction.

Risk factors for an opioid overdose include:

- Mixing opioids with other substances including benzodiazepines or alcohol
- Using after a break in use due to decreased tolerance
- Taking too many opioids
- Other health conditions
- Previous overdose
- Using opioids not from a pharmacy because the strength is unknown
- Using alone (increases risk from dying from an overdose)

Those who overdose rarely experience sudden breathing cessation. There is usually enough time to intervene before breathing completely stops and death occurs. Opioid overdose reversal medication and rescue breathing are evidence-based intervention outcomes for individuals experiencing an opioid overdose.

An opioid high presents differently than an opioid overdose.

Opioid High	Opioid Overdose
Normal skin tone	Pale, clammy skin Blue or purple lips or fingernails for person with light complexion and white or ashy lips and fingernails for person with dark complexion
Breathing appears normal	Infrequent, shallow, or absent breathing Respiratory rate less than 8 breaths per minute
Normal heart rate	Slow or irregular heartbeat
Looks sleepy	Unconscious or unable to wake
Speech slurred or slow	Deep snoring, gurgling, or choking sounds (death rattle)
Responsive to stimuli	Not responsive to stimuli
Pinpoint pupils (with some exceptions)	Pinpoint pupils

An opioid overdose may occur intentionally or in many cases unintentionally after injection, ingestion, or inhalation of an opioid. Assessing an individual for responsiveness and breathing is critical to a successful outcome of a person experiencing an opioid overdose. A few quick ways to determine this are:

- Shout their name and shake them
- Rub knuckles hard on the breastbone in the middle of the chest or on the upper lip of the individual.

If the person responds to the stimuli, assume an overdose has not yet occurred. However, emergency medical services should be notified. Remain with the individual and continue to assess for responsiveness

and breathing until help arrives. It is important to monitor the person and try to keep the individual awake and alert. If the person does not respond to hearing their name, being shook, or having knuckles rubbed on their breast bone or upper lip, assume they may be experiencing an opioid overdose.

An opioid overdose requires immediate medical attention. It is essential to have a trained medical professional assess the condition of a person experiencing an overdose. All schools are expected to activate emergency medical services in an expected case of an overdose. Naloxone is effective only if there are opioids involved in the overdose. Naloxone will not reverse an overdose involving alcohol, benzodiazepines, or cocaine. Washington's Good Samaritan Law provides some protections when calling 911 to save a life, even if drugs are at the scene according to RCW 69.50.315. The victim and person calling 911 cannot be prosecuted for simple possession. The District shall follow the Washington Department of Health's steps for administering naloxone for drug overdose. (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/150-126-NaloxoneInstructions.pdf>)

Obtaining and Maintaining Opioid Overdose Medication

If a statewide standing order for intranasal or auto-injection intramuscular forms of naloxone is available, the district will obtain and maintain those forms of opioid overdose reversal medication exclusively.

The district may seek to obtain opioid overdose reversal medication through donations from manufacturers, non-profit organizations, hospitals, and local health jurisdictions. The district may also purchase opioid overdose reversal medication directly from companies or distributors at discounted pricing. The district must maintain written documentation of its good faith effort to obtain opioid overdose reversal medication from these sources.

The opioid overdose reversal medication will be clearly marked and stored consistently with the manufacturer's guidelines in an accessible place at the discretion of the District Nurse. The District Nurse will ensure that all other relevant staff are aware of the naloxone storage location. The naloxone will be stored to avoid extreme cold, heat, and direct sunlight. Inspection of the medication will be conducted biannually.

Training

The district will ensure each high school has at least one personnel member who can distribute or administer opioid overdose reversal medication. Training for designated trained personnel will occur annually prior to the beginning of each school year and throughout the school year as needed. Training may take place through a variety of platforms, including online or in a more conventional classroom setting. A licensed registered professional nurse who is employed or contracted by the district may train the designated trained personnel on the administration of the opioid overdose reversal medication consistent with OSPI's guidelines and this policy/procedure.

The district will keep records of all designated trained responders and trainings.

Individuals who have been directly prescribed opioid overdose reversal medication according to RCW 69.41.095 lawfully possess and administer opioid overdose reversal medication, based on their personal prescription. However, such "self-carrying" individuals must either show proof of training as verified by a licensed registered professional nurse employed or contracted by the district or participate in district training. These self-carrying individuals do not count toward the designated trained responders at each high school.

Liability

The district's and practitioner's liability is limited as described in RCW 69.41.095.

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Classification: Essential

Revised Dates: