TITLE
DISTRIBUTION OF NALOXONE KITS

OBJECTIVES

• To authorize all health care providers working in an Alberta Health Services (AHS) Emergency Department and/or Urgent Care Centre to distribute Overdose Response kits (e.g., Take Home Naloxone [THN] kits) to facilitate harm reduction strategies and prevent opioid-related deaths. Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres represent unique settings to reach Albertans in order to prevent a life-threatening event.

• To promote widespread distribution of Overdose Response kits by health care providers to persons at risk, their families, and friends.

• To support health care providers, persons at risk, their families, and friends with education in the assessment of overdose, overdose response, safe injection practices, and assessment of patient responses.

PRINCIPLES

The opioid crisis in Alberta is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach including awareness, treatment, and harm reduction. AHS is committed to working with a variety of stakeholders to reduce harm and deaths related to opioid use.

AHS is committed to increasing the awareness of and providing low barrier access to Overdose Response kits and related strategies. The distribution of Overdose Response kits is an effective harm reduction strategy that aims to reduce morbidity and mortality rates related to the opioid crisis.
APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary), working in an Emergency Department and/or Urgent Care Centre.

ELEMENTS

1. Health care providers working in Emergency Departments and/or Urgent Care Centres shall complete the required AHS training for the distribution of Overdose Response kits. Refer to the AHS Take Home Naloxone Training Program.

2. Overdose Response kits may be distributed to the public, including but not limited to persons at risk, their families, or friends.

3. Health care providers, when distributing Overdose Response kits, shall offer to provide education including:
   3.1 how to assess for signs of overdose;
   3.2 the importance of calling 911;
   3.3 how to perform rescue breathing;
   3.4 how to draw up the naloxone;
   3.5 the dosing of naloxone;
   3.6 how to administer an intramuscular injection; and
   3.7 how to assess the response of the patient to determine the need for additional doses while waiting for the arrival of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

4. Documentation shall include the number of kits distributed.

DEFINITIONS

Health care provider means any person who provides goods or services to a patient, inclusive of health care professionals, staff, students, volunteers and other persons acting on behalf of or in conjunction with Alberta Health Services.

Overdose Response kit (Take Home Naloxone kit [THN]) means the necessary supplies for the safe administration of naloxone which is a medication that can restore breathing to someone having an overdose from opioid drugs.

Persons at risk means people at risk from harm related to substance use and potential drug overdose.
REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Forms:
  - Naloxone Kit Dispensing Record
  - Naloxone Kit Site Registration Form (#20236)
- Alberta Health Services Resources:
  - Take Home Naloxone Training Program

VERSION HISTORY

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