COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	Document #	8004.03
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Suspected Narcotic Overdose	Last Approved Date:	06/22/23
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EMS Medical Director

EMS Administrator

Purpose:

A. To serve as a treatment standard for patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of suspected Narcotic Overdose.

Authority:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Protocol:

A. For any Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC), consider AEIOUTIPS:

Alcohol	Trauma
Epilepsy	Infection
Insulin	Psychiatric
Overdose	Stroke or Cardiovascular
Uremia	

B. Suspected Narcotic Overdose (Consider any of the following):

- 1. Decreased responsiveness (Glasgow Coma Score < 14).
- 2. Inability to respond to simple commands.
- 3. Respiratory insufficiency or respiratory rate < 8.
- 4. Pinpoint pupils.
- 5. Bystander or patient history of drug use or drug paraphernalia on site.

	BLS	
1.	Supplemental O_2 as necessary to maintain $SpO_2 \ge 94\%$. Use the lowest concentration	
	and flow rate of O ₂ possible.	
2.	Check patient/victim for responsiveness and ABCs.	
3.	Naloxone: 2mg Intranasal (IN), or per dosing of pre-loaded IN Naloxone device. May	
	repeat every 5 minutes, as needed, until the patient is breathing spontaneously.	
4.	Airway adjuncts as needed.	
5.	Perform blood sugar determination. Refer to PD# 8002 – Diabetic Emergencies.	
6.	Transport	
ALS		
1.	Initiate vascular access and titrate to an SBP > 90 mm Hg.	
2.	Naloxone:	
	a. Preferred routes are IV or *Intranasal (IN).	

• 1mg increments IV push, titrated to adequate respiratory status.

- 2 mg Intranasal (IN). May repeat every 5 minutes, as needed, titrate to adequate respiratory status.
- Do not administer if an advanced airway is in place and the patient is being adequately ventilated.
- 3. Airway adjuncts as needed
- 4. Cardiac monitoring.

*Intranasal medications are to be delivered through an atomization device with one-half the indicated dose administered in each nostril.

Naloxone Leave Behind Kit

Indication:

- A. History of illicit substance use or active prescriptions for opioids.
- B. History of physical exam findings consistent with IV drug use needle marks, abscesses at injection sites.
- C. Physical environment suggestive of illicit substance use paraphernalia opioid pill bottles present at the scene.

BLS or ALS:

- A. If respiratory distress or altered mental status, refer to appropriate county policy.
- B. Provide Naloxone Leave Behind Kit.
- C. Review indications for Naloxone use with a bystander, friend, or family member.
- D. Review instructions for use with a bystander, friend, or family member.
- E. Review DHS opioid resource information sheet.

Cross Reference:	PD# 2523 – Administration of Naloxone by Law Enforcement First	
	Responders.	
	PD# 8002 – Diabetic Emergencies	
	PD# 8003 – Seizures	
	PD# 2002 – Naloxone Leave Behind	