

BHcare, Inc.

SUBJECT: OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION/NALOXONE POLICY Policy #287

POLICY: BHcare will have naloxone (Narcan) readily available at all of its service sites in the event of an opioid overdose, which is a medical emergency. Available trained staff will respond to potential opioid overdoses with appropriate medical intervention and administration of Narcan. The person will be immediately transferred to the nearest emergency facility.

In Connecticut, prescribers are permitted by law (PA 12-159) to prescribe, dispense or administer Narcan to anyone for the purpose of preventing or reversing an opioid overdose. Naloxone/Narcan is an opioid antagonist and is the standard medication used to reverse the respiratory depression caused by opiates and opioids. It has been approved by the FDA, has no psychoactive effects and does not present any potential for abuse.

PURPOSE: To ensure the health and wellness of individuals served, employees and visitors by preventing overdoses from opioids such as heroin, methadone and other prescription analgesics.

PROCEDURES:

1. BHcare staff are trained individually or in a group setting by the designated Prevention Specialist. Required training elements include:
 - Risk factors associated with overdose
 - How to recognize an opioid overdose
 - Calling 911
 - Rescue breathing
 - Naloxone (Narcan); how to obtain, how it works; how to administer
 - Recovery position
2. Narcan trained staff will determine if an opioid overdose is suspected. If another life-threatening medical emergency is identified, refer to MEDICAL EMERGENCIES Policy #277.
3. If it is determined that the condition may be an opioid overdose, Narcan will be administered by trained staff. Narcan is located in an Overdose Prevention Kit in a labeled storage space with other emergency medical supplies at all BHcare facilities and affiliated sites. BHcare mobile Crisis clinicians will also carry Narcan.
4. Available trained staff will assist in additional emergency medical interventions as needed, including basic first aid, rescue-breathing, and CPR utilizing Universal Precautions. Latex gloves and CPR mouth barriers are available at each first aid station.
5. A staff member will assist in clearing the area and assessing the needs of other individuals.

6. During a suspected opioid overdose, staff will:
 - a. Ensure safety of overdosing person at all times.
 - b. Provide EMS with pertinent information.
 - c. Provide the receiving hospital emergency room with pertinent information.
 - d. Arrange for transfer, if necessary, of client records.
 - e. Notify individual's emergency contact, if known.
7. The incident should be documented on a Critical Incident Report, as appropriate, and reported to a direct supervisor immediately.
8. After use of a Narcan kit, trained staff will submit a request for a refill to the designated Prevention Specialist.
9. The Overdose Prevention Kits will be checked monthly by a Safety Committee representative at the same time that the First Aid Kits are reviewed. Any missing and/or expired items or other deficiencies noted will be reported immediately to the Prevention Specialist. The mobile Crisis Clinicians will be responsible for the maintenance of their Overdose Prevention Kits.

CT Public Act #12-159

Effective 10/16