



BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TRAINING BULLETIN



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

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DEPLOYMENT OF NARCAN® NASAL SPRAY (NALOXONE) FOR OPIOID OVERDOSES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Training Bulletin is to provide additional information related to the administration of Narcan (Naloxone Hydrochloride). Due to the anticipated deployment of the Narcan Nasal Spray product, this bulletin only applies to that product. The purpose of the deployment is to equip Bureau personnel with the ability to assist with the medical emergency of an opioid (i.e. Heroin, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, etc.) overdose. Training on the administration of Narcan shall be given to sergeants and senior investigators assigned to Special Enforcement Team/Parole Revocation Unit, Code Enforcement and Organized Crimes/Major Crimes Unit. Additional personnel may be permitted to carry Narcan Nasal Spray at the discretion of the Special Operations Division captain. All personnel authorized to carry Narcan Nasal Spray shall adhere to Policy Directive Memorandum 19-01, and the procedures outlined in this bulletin.

BACKGROUND

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "The United States is experiencing an epidemic of drug overdose (poisoning) deaths. Since 2000, the rate of deaths from drug overdoses has increased 137 percent including a 200 percent increase in the rate of overdose deaths involving opioids." Narcan Nasal Spray is an opioid antagonist designed to reverse the respiratory depression caused by an overdose of opioids.

POLICY

Los Angeles County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency oversees emergency medical treatment by personnel throughout Los Angeles County. Department personnel are required to be properly trained in the use of Narcan Nasal Spray prior to administering it in the course and scope of their duties. Employee training on the administration of the nasal spray will be arranged by the Training Unit Sergeant.

PROCEDURES

Narcan Nasal Spray will be distributed to sergeants and senior investigators assigned to the Special Enforcement Team/Parole Revocation Unit, Code Enforcement and Organized Crimes/Major Crimes Unit. Additional personnel may be permitted to carry Narcan Nasal Spray at the discretion of the Special Operations Division captain.

Additional doses of the Narcan Nasal Spray will be secured by the Training Unit sergeant. The Training Unit sergeant shall develop a process to ensure Bureau personnel obtain training and are familiar with Narcan Nasal Spray procedures.

The Training Unit sergeant or his/her representative shall regularly conduct a visual inspection to ensure the Narcan Nasal Spray in the possession of sergeants/senior investigators and in storage has not expired. An expired Narcan Nasal Spray shall be properly disposed of and replaced. Care should be taken to ensure the Narcan applicators are not exposed to excessive heat or light in order to protect the potency of the Narcan Nasal Spray medication. Narcan Nasal Spray has a shelf life of approximately two (2) years.

The Administration of Narcan Nasal Spray

Prior to deploying Narcan Nasal Spray, personnel must first ensure the scene is secure and free of hazards for themselves, additional first responders, and bystanders in the immediate area. Scene assessment should include, but is not limited to:

- Presence or potential of any suspects in the area;
- Weapons or dangerous objects;
- Containment of a crime scene as necessary;
- Fire, chemical, or electrical hazards;
- Environmental hazards.



Once the scene is rendered safe, personnel shall ensure medical services and/or paramedics have been requested. While medical services and/or paramedic personnel are responding to the location, the handling investigative personnel shall do a first assessment of the subject by:

- Observing if the subject is unconscious and unresponsive;
- If unconscious, check the subject's airway, breathing, and pulse;
- Ask bystanders/other subjects if it is known that opioid ingestion is a factor;
- Check for signs of opioid overdose.

The signs of an opioid overdose may include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of consciousness;
- Constricted (pinpoint) pupils;
- Unresponsive to outside verbal or physical stimulus;
- Awake, but unable to speak;
- Breathing is very slow and shallow, irregular, or has stopped;
- Choking sounds, or a snore-like gurgling noise;
- Vomiting;
- Body is very limp;
- Face is very pale or clammy;
- Fingernails and lips turn blue or purplish black;
- Pulse (heartbeat) is slow, irregular, or not present.

If the subject is not breathing and is unresponsive, begin Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), then administer Narcan Nasal Spray when possible. If readily available, ensure

personal protective equipment (CPR mask, gloves, face shield, etc.) is utilized when administering CPR.

If you suspect the subject is unconscious due to an opioid overdose, administer Narcan Nasal Spray by doing the following:

- Gently tilt the subject's head back and make sure the nasal cavity is clear;
- Hold the Narcan Nasal Spray by placing your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle;
- Insert the Narcan Nasal Spray nozzle into one (1) nostril until your fingers, on either side of the nozzle, are against the bottom of the subject's nose;
- Press the plunger firmly to administer the full dose of Narcan into the nostril;
- Remove the Narcan Nasal Spray from the subject's nostril after administering the dose;
- Initiate rescue breathing as needed until the subject can adequately breathe on their own;
- Once the subject is adequately breathing, you may need to place him/her on their left side in the "recovery" position to avoid aspiration;
- Continue constant observation until medical personnel and/or paramedics arrive.



Upon the administration of Narcan Nasal Spray, it may take a few minutes for the subject's body to absorb and respond to the medication. If the subject does not respond to the nasal spray within three to five minutes, a second dose of nasal spray may be required. Prior to administering a second dose of Narcan Nasal Spray, investigative personnel shall reconfirm medical personnel/paramedics are responding to the location. Each Narcan Nasal Spray application contains a single dose.

Administration of Narcan Nasal Spray may result in an immediate withdrawal in patients who are opioid dependent. Symptoms of withdrawal may include nausea/vomiting, cardiac arrest, nose bleed or in rare cases, aggressive behavior.

Narcan Nasal Spray **shall only** be administered on adults and children, and **shall not** be administered on infants under one year of age. The Narcan Nasal Spray is only effective on subjects who have overdosed on opioid related drugs. The Narcan Nasal Spray does not have any significant side effects if the cause of unconsciousness is not opioid related.

Investigative personnel shall defer the authority of medical treatment and transportation to medical personnel or paramedics once they arrive on-scene. State law exempts properly trained investigative personnel from liability when administering Narcan Nasal Spray during the course and scope of their duties.

Investigative personnel shall ensure the used Narcan Nasal Spray device is properly disposed of by surrendering it to an on-scene fire/paramedic/medical personnel, or by placing it into a hazardous materials disposal container.

Reporting an incident.

After Narcan Nasal Spray has been administered to a patient, whether successful or not, Department personnel shall:

- Verbally advise medical personnel what time the Narcan Nasal Spray was administered and any change in the subject's condition;
- Complete a NARCAN (Naloxone) Use Report, which shall include all pertinent information and the location of the incident in the narrative field;
- Complete an incident report in ARMS detailing all pertinent information surrounding the observations and actions of all investigative personnel and witnesses present at the scene. Be sure to include information of medical personnel and destination of subject; and
- Submit all paperwork to their sergeant for review/approval. Once approved, copies of all documentation shall be sent to the Department's Narcan Nasal Spray program coordinator (Training Unit Sergeant).

Additional information

Narcan Nasal Spray can be purchased from a pharmacy without a prescription by family, friends, or anyone in a position to assist a person suffering from an opioid overdose. In addition, Narcan Nasal Spray can be used on Bureau personnel who come in accidental contact with an opioid related drug in the course and scope of their duties and are suffering from the effects of an overdose.

Attachments

LADA NARCAN Use Report form

References

NARCAN Nasal Spray Quick Start Guide

NARCAN website (www.narcan.com)

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Instructional Bulletin

Policy Directive Memorandum 19-01

