

Book: Luzerne Intermediate Unit
Section: 800 Operations
Title: Opioid Antagonist
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Authority

As a means of enhancing the health and safety of its students, staff and visitors, the Intermediate Unit may obtain, maintain and administer doses of an opioid antagonist and other facilities for emergency use to assist a student, staff member or other individual believed or suspected to be experiencing an opioid overdose.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Definitions

Drug overdose - shall mean an acute medical condition, including, but not limited to, severe physical illness, coma, mania, hysteria or death, which is the result of consumption or use of one or more controlled substances causing an adverse reaction. An individual's condition may be deemed to be a drug overdose if a prudent person, possessing an average knowledge of medicine and health, would reasonably believe that the condition is in fact a drug overdose and requires immediate medical attention.[\[1\]](#)

Opioid - shall mean illegal drugs such as heroin, as well as prescription medications used to treat pain such as morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, hydromorphone and buprenorphine.

Opioid antagonist - a drug or device approved by federal law for emergency reversal of known or suspected opioid overdose, including naloxone hydrochloride or other similarly acting drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of an opioid overdose.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Executive Director or designee, in consultation with the school nurse(s) and the school physician, shall establish appropriate internal procedures for the acquisition, stocking and administration of opioid antagonists and related emergency response procedures pursuant to this policy.

The school physician shall be the prescribing and supervising medical professional for the stocking and use of opioid antagonists in designated programs. The

Executive Director or designee shall obtain a standing order from the school physician for administration of opioid antagonists.

The school nurse shall be responsible for managing the building-level administration, maintenance and stocking of opioid antagonists in designated programs.

Guidelines

The school nurse shall develop a plan for annually informing all parents/guardians, students and staff about this policy and specifically:

1. The availability of an opioid antagonist to treat opioid drug overdoses and what it does;
2. The symptoms of opioid drug overdoses;
3. How students and staff should report suspected overdoses;
4. The protection from criminal prosecution provided by law for persons who report a suspected overdose using their real name and remain with the overdosing person until emergency medical services (EMS) or law enforcement arrive, as well as for the person whose overdose they report; and [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)
5. The protection from civil liability provided by law for persons who report overdoses or administer an opioid antagonist in overdose emergencies. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Standing Order From the School Physician

The school physician shall provide and annually renew a standing order for administration of an opioid antagonist to students, staff members or other individuals in designated programs, who are believed or suspected to be experiencing an opioid overdose.

The standing order shall include at least the following information:

1. Type of opioid antagonist (intranasal and auto-injector).
2. Date of issue.
3. Dosage.
4. Signature of the school physician.

The standing order shall be maintained in the Executive Director's office, and for each designated program, copies of the standing order shall be kept in each location where an opioid antagonist is stored.

Training

Before any Intermediate Unit employee may have custody of an opioid antagonist or administer an opioid antagonist under this policy, the employee must successfully complete an online Pennsylvania Department of Health training program about recognizing opioid-related overdoses, administering an opioid antagonist and promptly seeking medical attention for drug overdoses. Evidence that such training has been completed shall be placed in the employee's personnel file.[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

A list of Intermediate Unit employees who successfully complete such training shall be maintained, updated and kept in the school nurse's office and the Intermediate Unit administration office.

Acquisition, Storage and Disposal

For each designated program, opioid antagonists shall be safely stored in the school nurse's office or other location designated by the school nurse in accordance with the drug manufacturer's instructions.

Opioid antagonists shall be made readily accessible to those employees who have completed the required training to administer it in the event of a suspected drug overdose. All properly trained employees shall be informed of the exact location where an opioid antagonist is being stored within the school nurse's office or other location.

The school nurse shall obtain sufficient supplies of opioid antagonists pursuant to the standing order in the same manner as other medical supplies acquired for the school health program. The school nurse or designee shall regularly inventory and refresh opioid antagonist stocks, and maintain records thereof, in accordance with the established internal procedures, manufacturer recommendations and Department of Health Guidelines.

Administration of an Opioid Antagonist

When responding to a suspected drug overdose, employees shall follow the steps outlined below:

1. Call for medical help immediately (Dial 9-1-1).
2. Check for signs of opioid overdose.

3. Perform initial rescue breathing (or CPR if needed), as instructed in training.
4. Administer the opioid antagonist, as instructed in training.
5. Continue rescue breathing (or CPR if needed), as instructed in training.
6. Administer second dose of the opioid antagonist if needed, as instructed in training.
7. Place in recovery position, as instructed in training.
8. Stay with the individual until emergency medical help arrives.
9. Cooperate with EMS personnel responding to the incident.
10. Notify the building administrator or designee of the incident.

Referral to Law Enforcement and Parental Notification

The Executive Director or designee shall immediately report incidents involving the use of controlled substances on school property of the Intermediate Unit, at any school function under the jurisdiction of the Intermediate Unit, or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from any school function under the jurisdiction of the Intermediate Unit, to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property of the Intermediate Unit, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with law enforcement and Board policies. [\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)

The Executive Director or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any student directly involved in an incident involving use of controlled substances immediately, as soon as practicable. The Executive Director or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether or not the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school property of the Intermediate Unit has been or may be notified of the incident. The Executive Director or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian. [\[5\]](#)[\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)

Referral to Student Assistance Program

Any student who experiences a drug overdose shall be referred to the Intermediate Unit's Student Assistance Program. [\[13\]](#)

Indemnification

The Intermediate Unit shall indemnify and hold harmless any employee who administers an opioid antagonist in good faith to another individual experiencing a suspected drug overdose, if all of these conditions apply: [\[2\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)

1. The employee did not act with the intent to harm or with reckless indifference to a substantial risk or harm in administering an opioid antagonist to that individual.
2. The employee successfully completed the training contemplated by this policy.
3. The employee promptly sought additional medical assistance before or immediately after administering an opioid antagonist.
4. The employee is administering an opioid antagonist pursuant to this policy.

Legal

1. 35 P.S. 780-113.7
2. 35 P.S. 780-113.8
3. 21 U.S.C. 301 et seq
4. Pol. 324
5. 22 PA Code 10.2
6. 22 PA Code 10.21
7. 22 PA Code 10.22
8. 24 P.S. 1306.2-B
9. 24 P.S. 1319-B
10. Pol. 227
11. Pol. 805.1
12. 22 PA Code 10.25
13. Pol. 236
14. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8547
15. 42 Pa. C.S.A. 8548
16. Pol. 916