

Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

SUBJECT: NALOXONE LEAVE BEHIND PROGRAM

STANDARD

Naloxone is a medication that can help save lives by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. The Naloxone “Leave Behind” program allows EMS personnel to provide Naloxone kits to at-risk individuals, an involved bystander, or the family or friends that are at-risk of witnessing an opioid related overdose in the prehospital setting.

The use of “Leave Behind” Naloxone kits may decrease patient mortality and morbidity related to opioid use by reducing the “down-time” of overdose patients, decreasing rates of hospitalization and the incidence of costly long-term care related to anoxic brain injury. The Naloxone “Leave Behind” program provides a kit that can be offered by EMS personnel to those who are close to someone who is at risk of overdose.

PURPOSE

The Naloxone Kit shall not be used by EMS to reverse an opioid overdose (except in extenuating circumstances where no other EMS Naloxone is available). The Naloxone Kits are not meant to replace EMS stock but rather to “Leave Behind” at the scene of an opioid overdose for high-risk patients.

PROCEDURE

- Naloxone Kits may be carried on ALS and/or BLS units of those agencies approved to participate in the program.
- Naloxone Kits may be provided to the patient or family only after appropriate patient assessment and treatment of an opioid overdose.
- Per the Medical Program Director, all overdose patients should be transported to the Emergency Department, however, if a patient chooses to go against medical advice (AMA), please provide detailed documentation of the encounter in the patient care report narrative.
- If Naloxone was administered by a bystander or family member/friend on scene prior to EMS arrival, a Naloxone Kit can be given for resupply.
- Documentation of distribution will be completed in the electronic patient care report as determined by the agency and/or MPD Operational Policy to provide for adequate documentation and future data extraction to support the need for the program and/or effectiveness.

NOTE:

- Packaging/Instructions – “Leave Behind” Package should include one to two (1-2) doses of the Naloxone/Narcan nasal spray 3-4 mg., instructions, and a state/local resource card with information about outreach services offering opioid/chemical dependency counseling, medical assisted withdrawal, and addiction treatment.
- Naloxone Source – The source of Naloxone for the “Leave Behind” program may change depending on availability and qualifying criteria. Therefore, the reporting, packing and product replacement requirements may change.
- Washington State has several laws in place that protect those who intervene in an opioid overdose situation:

Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

SUBJECT: NALOXONE LEAVE BEHIND PROGRAM

RCW 4.24.300 Immunity from liability for certain types of medical care (general public)

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=4.24.300>

RCW 69.41.095 “Naloxone Law” – distribution, possession, and administration of naloxone among laypersons, first responder/law enforcement immunity

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=69.41.095>

RCW 69.50.315 “Good Samaritan Overdose Law” – immunity from drug possession prosecution in drug-related overdoses

<https://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=69.50.315>