

DSH PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Operational Procedures

APPENDIX – NALOXONE HYDROCHLORIDE NASAL SPRAY (NARCAN) PROTOCOL

I. Indications:

- A. Naloxone hydrochloride should be used for patients in need of emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression including extreme somnolence, shallow respirations to no respirations along with miosis and bradycardia or hypotension.
- B. Naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray is available without a prescription and can be administered by lay people in the community.

II. Contraindications:

- A. Hypersensitivity to naloxone hydrochloride or to any of the other ingredients.

III. Precautions (risk/benefit analysis supports use):

- A. Risk of recurrent respiratory and CNS depression: Due to the duration of action of naloxone relative to the opioid, keep patient under continued surveillance and administer repeat doses of naloxone using a new nasal spray with each dose, as necessary, while awaiting emergency medical assistance.
- B. Risk of limited efficacy with partial agonists or mixed agonists/antagonists: Larger or repeat doses may be required.
- C. Precipitation of Severe Opioid Withdrawal: Use in patients who are opioid dependent may precipitate opioid withdrawal. Monitor for the development of opioid withdrawal. Restrict prescription of NARCAN Nasal Spray 2 mg to opioid-dependent patients expected to be at risk for severe opioid withdrawal in situations where there is a low risk for accidental or intentional opioid exposure by household contacts.
- D. Risk of Cardiovascular (CV) Effects: Abrupt postoperative reversal of opioid depression may result in adverse CV effects. These events have primarily occurred in patients who had pre-existing CV disorders or received other drugs that may have similar adverse CV effects. Monitor these patients closely in an appropriate healthcare setting after use of naloxone hydrochloride.

IV. Dosage:

- A. Nasal spray: 2 mg/2 mL (luer lock device with nasal adapter) and 4 mg/0.1 mL (OTC plunger device) naloxone hydrochloride.

V. Administration:

Naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray is for intranasal use only. The recommended initial dose of NARCAN Nasal Spray in adults and pediatric patients is one spray delivered by intranasal administration in one nostril. Lay the patient on their back while supporting the back of their neck to allow the head to tilt back. Give as quickly as possible, even when in doubt.

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- A. Seek emergency medical care immediately after use.
- B. Administration of a single spray of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray intranasally into one nostril.
- C. Administer additional doses of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray, using a new nasal spray with each dose, if the patient does not respond or responds and then relapses into respiratory depression, additional doses of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray may be given every 2 to 3 minutes until emergency medical assistance arrives.
- D. Additional supportive and/or resuscitative measures may be helpful while awaiting emergency medical assistance.

VI. Possible Adverse Reactions:

- A. Precipitation of severe opioid withdrawal
- B. Increased blood pressure
- C. Constipation
- D. Toothache
- E. Muscle spasms
- F. Musculoskeletal pain
- G. Headache
- H. Nasal dryness
- I. Nasal edema
- J. Nasal congestion
- K. Nasal inflammation
- L. Rhinalgia
- M. Xeroderma

References:

Emergent Devices Inc. (2020). NARCAN package insert.