

Naloxone Use in the School Setting

May 24, 2016 the New Jersey Department of Education released a broadcast memo addressing opioid overdose prevention. Please read the broadcast memo in its entirety.

<https://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2016/MAY/24/14963/Information%20for%20Schools%20Regarding%20Opioid%20Overdose%20Prevention.pdf>

As per the State of New Jersey, Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, naloxone may be administered by EMTs and Paramedics. As per the NJ Office of Emergency Medical Services:

“In an effort to reduce the burden associated with opioid overdose in the community the Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services has issued waiver number 14-8:40A-10.1/8:41A-5.1-004 granting relief from the provision(s) NJAC 8:40A – 10.1 Scope of Practice and N.J.A.C. 8:41A – 5.1 Scope of Practice. This waiver was granted in accordance with PL 2013, 46, known as the “Overdose Prevention Act”. It applies to all certified New Jersey EMTs and Paramedics authorizing them to administer Naloxone to individuals experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, opioid overdose to prevent fatality often associated with an opioid overdose.”

For more information regarding naloxone and the NJ naloxone program, go to http://www.nj.gov/health/ems/naloxone_info.shtml

School nurses are encouraged to call their community/local/district’s emergency responders to ascertain if naloxone is carried. This information may impact how opioid overdose is managed in the school setting. In addition, the Student Resource Officers (SRO) may also carry naloxone. School nurses are encouraged to consult with their SRO if staffed at their school.

The New Jersey State School Nurses Association position on the use of naloxone in the school setting is congruent with the National Association of School Nurses and is based on the following principals:

- (1) Opioid overdose has reached epidemic levels and includes misuse of prescription pain killers and use of illicit drugs.
- (2) Naloxone is the antidote for opioid overdose. It is a life-saving medication.
- (3) It is prudent for the school’s emergency preparedness and response plan to include handling of opioid overdose. New Jersey certified school nurses are encouraged to collaborate with their school’s governing body (school board, administration) to create the emergency preparedness and response plan.
- (4) New Jersey certified school nurses need to abide by New Jersey Administrative Code, Chapter 16, Programs to Support Development and The Nurse Practice Act. It is judicious for the CSN to have the school board’s medical director/school physician include naloxone as part of the standing orders, if it is deemed appropriate for the school nurse to have access to and possibly administer naloxone.

Please refer to the National Association of School Nurses position paper, Naloxone Use in the School Setting, <http://www.nasn.org/portals/0/positions/2015psnaloxone.pdf>

In addition, Adapt Pharma to offer all US high schools a free Narcan nasal spray and fund school based opioid overdose education. For more information go to:

<http://www.narcannasalspray.com/pdf/NARCAN-for-High-Schools.pdf>

<http://inr.synapticdigital.com/adaptpharma/NARCAN/>