

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION

The Board of Education recognizes that the use of opioids can lead to overdose and death of district students and staff. The Board wishes to minimize these deaths by the use of opioid overdose prevention measures.

The signs and symptoms of opioid overdose are: shallow, slow, erratic, or no breathing; slow, erratic, or no pulse; snoring; choking with a gurgling rattle; unconsciousness, minimal responsiveness, limp body, unresponsive to painful stimuli; pinpoint pupils; blue or purple lips or fingertips; pale, blue, gray, or ashen skin; clammy face.

Administration of Opioid Antagonist Pursuant to Non-Patient Specific Order

The Board of Education approves the following program for use of opioid antagonists on students or staff suspected of having opioid overdose whether or not there is a previous history of opioid abuse.

Opioid antagonist shall be limited to naloxone and other medications approved by the Department of Health for such purposes, and administered only to students and staff.

School Nurse Administration of Opioid Overdose Treatments Pursuant to a Non-Patient Specific Order and Protocols

The school district's New York State (NYS) licensed physician will issue a non-patient specific order and protocol authorizing school nurses to administer naloxone and/or other opioid-related overdose treatment to students or staff suspected of having an opioid overdose. The school nurse may administer intranasal (in the nose) naloxone or, if allowable per their training, intramuscular (in the muscle) naloxone, on school premises or at any school-sponsored activities occurring off school grounds. The non-patient specific order and protocols must comply with regulations of the commissioner of education (8 NYCRR §64.7).

A registered nurse (RN) who is responsible for implementing the non-patient specific order and protocol may assign licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to help (i.e., administer the ordered naloxone or other opioid overdose treatment, call an ambulance). The RN must provide training and on-site direction to the LPNs except in emergency situations.

Rensselaer County Department of Health will provide training to staff members chosen by the school district, including but not limited to the school nurse, regarding the use and administration of naloxone.

Documentation and Other Provisions

School nurses will document the administration of naloxone in accordance with the non-patient specific order and protocol that authorized the nurse to administer the naloxone, and report the administration of the naloxone to the district's medical director.

If there is a patient specific order for a particular student, the district will refer to the current NYS Education Department Guidelines for Medication Management in Schools as appropriate.

This policy, regulation, and any related procedures will be reviewed annually to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the district and are consistent with recommended best practice.

Those trained as volunteer responders in the administering of naloxone will be required to review training every year.

Ref:

Education Law §§902 (requires public schools to employ medical director); 922 (volunteer naloxone responder); 6527 (emergency treatment of anaphylaxis and opioid overdose); 3023 (liability coverage); 6509-d (protection from liability for professional misconduct); 6909 (administration of naloxone by nurses)

Public Health Law §3309 (volunteer naloxone responder)

8 NYCRR §64.7 (administration of naloxone); Part 136 (school health services program, including naloxone)

10 NYCRR §80.138 (volunteer naloxone responder)

Guidance for Implementing Opioid Overdose Prevention Measures in Schools, New York State Education Department, updated 3/2019,

https://www.schoolhealthny.com/cms/lib/NY01832015/Centricity/Domain/85/NYSED_%20OpioidGuidance_3.2019.pdf

Opioid Overdose Prevention: Guidelines for Policies and Procedures, New York State Department of Health, March 2014,

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/general/opioid_overdose_prevention/docs/policies_and_procedures.pdf

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