

# SNOHOMISH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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The following instruction shall be a STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and supersedes all previous information relating to:

## NASAL NALOXONE/NARCAN



## PURPOSE

Nasal Naloxone/Narcan is a nasal spray which may counteract the effects of a heroin or other opioid overdose. It is designed to reverse the depressive effects of opioids on the respiratory system with just one application. The use of the nasal application reduces the chances of an accidental needle stick to the rescuer or others. The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) governing the use of Nasal Naloxone/Narcan.

## POLICY

It is the policy of SCSO that certain sworn deputies will be trained in the use of Nasal Naloxone/Narcan and that they will carry the Naloxone/Narcan kit in their patrol car while on duty.

## DEFINITION

- Deputy: Refers to any sworn staff member employed by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, regardless of rank, who is trained in the use of the Naloxone/Narcan kit.
- Safety Equipment: Includes department authorized or issued face mask or shield, protective latex gloves and hazardous materials disposal container.

## PROCEDURE

Naloxone/Narcan may be used when responding to a call where the deputy reasonably believes that a person is in an opioid-induced state based on any or all of the following, non-exclusive examples:

- When advised by the dispatcher that a given person appears to be suffering an opioid overdose at a given location;
- When observing drugs, drug paraphernalia, or any drug instrument associated with the individual and opioid; or
- When the person is found to be unresponsive, there is an absence of breathing or the victim has no pulse, is unresponsive to a sternum rub, and has bluish lips or nail beds.
- When a witness that is present gives information or evidence that would lead a reasonable person to believe the person is suffering from a drug overdose.

Deputies will immediately verify with the dispatcher that the closest emergency medical service (EMS) is either on the way or is to be dispatched. Deputies will then place the victim in the "rescue" position and administer the Naloxone/Narcan. Deputies will continue to render the appropriate first aid until the arrival of EMS to transport the victim to the hospital.

Once the administration is complete and the area is secured, deputies will complete the Naloxone/Narcan card and forward it to his/her supervisor.

## **GOOD SAMARITAN DRUG OVERDOSE LAW**

Revised Code of Washington 69.50.315 states that:

- A person acting in good faith who seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing a drug-related overdose shall not be charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance pursuant to RCW [69.50.4013](#), or penalized under RCW [69.50.4014](#), if the evidence for the charge of possession of a controlled substance was obtained as a result of the person seeking medical assistance.  
(b) A person acting in good faith may receive a naloxone prescription, possess naloxone, and administer naloxone to an individual suffering from an apparent opioid-related overdose.
- (2) A person who experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance shall not be charged or prosecuted for possession of a controlled substance pursuant to RCW [69.50.4013](#), or penalized under RCW [69.50.4014](#), if the evidence for the charge of possession of a controlled substance was obtained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical assistance.
- (3) The protection in this section from prosecution for possession crimes under RCW [69.50.4013](#) shall not be grounds for suppression of evidence in other criminal charges.

## **SAFETY**

The safety of the victim and deputy are paramount for the Naloxone/Narcan to be successful, therefore;

- Deputies that expect to use the Naloxone/Narcan kit shall, whenever possible employ safety measures to reduce the possibility of bloodborne pathogen exposure.
- These steps shall at least include wearing safety equipment before administering Naloxone/Narcan and disposing of the used Naloxone/Narcan container and safety equipment in an approved bio-hazard container immediately following its use.
- It is important to remember that a victim can quickly become combative once the Naloxone/Narcan takes effect.
- Deputies must be aware of their surroundings while at these medical scenes and be prepared for secondary threats.

## **MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT**

Upon completion of training, a Nasal Naloxone/Narcan kit and replacement prescription will be supplied to deputies as their standard issue equipment. It is the deputy's

responsibility to ensure it is handled correctly and available when needed. It is a sun and temperature sensitive prescription medication and has a lifespan of two (2) years. Deputies are expected to check the Naloxone/Narcan kit regularly to ensure it is not expired and will contact the prescribing authority for replacement of an expired medication.

Expired medications in kits shall be disposed of at any authorized Drug Take Back location.

## **RECORDS KEEPING**

The Personnel Development Division (PDD) shall maintain a list of all SCSO personnel who have been trained in the use of Naloxone/Narcan. The PDD shall maintain a file showing each instance when Naloxone/Narcan was used, by whom, and the outcome of the administration.

After application of Naloxone/Narcan or disposal of expired medication in a kit, deputies will complete a self-addressed card in the kit and forward a copy to PDD and to the Snohomish County Human Services department.