



Florida Overdose Prevention Plan

This plan serves to provide information about Overdose Prevention for personnel that can also be used to educate persons served. This information may be incorporated into orientation materials for new hires, into the orientation information presented to persons served upon admission into the program and also to any person who is on a wait list pending admission to any WestCare Florida program.

Education about the risks of overdose

One of the biggest risks for overdose is a return to use along with a lower tolerance for the effects of the drug of choice, specifically after:

1. A self-imposed short- or long-term period of abstinence,
2. Being discharged from a short- or longer-term treatment program or
3. Being discharged from a medication assisted treatment program.

Overdose risk may increase because of length of time spent in the treatment program, reduced or loss of tolerance, uncertainty about dosage and less knowledge about changes in quality or purity of drug of choice.

Signs of an opioid overdose include:

- a. The person's face is extremely pale and/or feels clammy to the touch.
- b. Their body goes limp.
- c. Their fingernails or lips have a purple or blue color.
- d. They start vomiting or making gurgling noises.
- e. They cannot be awakened or are unable to speak.
- f. Their breathing or heartbeat slows or stops.

What is an opioid receptor?

An opioid receptor is a specific protein on a nerve cell that gets activated by an opiate to create feelings of pleasure or relaxation or relieve the experience of pain.

What is an opioid antagonist?

An opioid antagonist attaches itself to an opioid receptor on a nerve cell and prevents it from being activated by the presence of the drug. Opioid antagonists block or reverse the effects of other opiates such as heroin, morphine, or oxycodone.

What is Narcan/Naloxone

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist drug and is used to counteract the effects of an opiate overdose caused by using, for example heroin, morphine, or oxycodone. Naloxone is used specifically to reduce potentially life-threatening depression of the central nervous system and respiratory system. It is marketed under various trademarks including NARCAN and Naloxone.

How to use Narcan/Naloxone

Narcan nasal spray – excerpt from Narcan information brochure:

- a. Peel back the package to remove the device. Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and two fingers on the nozzle
- b. Place and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the patient's nose.
- c. Press the plunger firmly to release the dose into the patient's nose.

Location of Narcan

Narcan overdose prevention kits are available for use by personnel during all hours of program operation and after hours as the need arises. Narcan overdose prevention kits are located at:

- 5200 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 445. Miami, FL 33126
- 2272 SW 7th Street, Miami, FL 33135
- 16115 SW 117th Ave, Suite A3. Miami, Florida 33177
- 1601 Poinciana Drive, Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

Where to access Narcan/Naloxone outside of WestCare programs

For information or questions regarding the Florida program contact SAVEFL@myflfamilies.com. Naloxone locator can be found at www.isavefl.com. Individuals can access this locator to find the closest provider in their area distributing free naloxone through the program.

The Village South, Inc. in Miami, FL is registered with The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) as a community distribution site.

Resources

Opioid Overdose Treatment – Narcan - <https://www.narcan.com/>