



BCCDC Non-certified Practice Decision Support Tool
Dispensing naloxone

DISPENSING NALOXONE KITS TO CLIENTS AT RISK OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

NURSING COMPETENCIES

Knowledge of:

- Participant-centered care as it related to substance use
- Harm reduction principles
- Factors that increase the risk of an opioid overdose (OD)
- Signs and symptoms of an opioid OD
- OD response, including appropriate administration of Naloxone
- Pharmacology of naloxone (i.e. onset, duration, half-life)
- Community, educational, and health care resources available to assist in participant/client care, follow-up, and referral (including where to get replacement Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits)
- Participant teaching points as outlined in the Overdose Training Prevention and Response Manual
- Online site-finder which allows participants to find the closest THN program in BC to get a replacement kit list

Skill in:

- Engaging with a participant in a respectful and sensitive manner, which allows the participant to direct his or her own care
- Obtaining relevant health history, including previous and current use of opioids
- Screening for risk of opioid overdose
- Providing appropriate participant education
- Assessing the need for referral to other health care providers (i.e. mental health services, primary care, etc.)

Judgment in:

- Determining appropriate strategies for providing participant care and follow-up



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- Maintaining participant confidentiality

Attitude by:

- Demonstrating self-awareness of own beliefs and biases
- Demonstrating sensitivity when obtaining history of a participant who is/has used opioids
- Respecting participant's choice regarding assessment, taking a naloxone kit, and/or accessing follow-up care