

Opioid Overdose Prevention & Reversal

Information Sheet

The Opioid Overdose Prevention and Reversal Project

In Massachusetts, between 1996 and 2006, there was a sharp rise in the annual number of deaths due to opioid overdose, increasing from 178 to 637. In fact, opioid overdose has become the leading cause of injury deaths in Massachusetts, surpassing motor vehicle injury deaths. Some examples of opioids include Heroin, Oxycodone, Methadone, Fentanyl, Codeine, & Morphine. In order to save lives, the Department of Public Health launched a pilot project to distribute a medication called nasal naloxone that can reverse an overdose.

Nasal Naloxone (Narcan®) Administration and Effects

In an overdose, opioids can slow breathing to the point of death. Nasal naloxone blocks the opioids and restores normal breathing when sprayed into the nose of someone who has overdosed. It is safe, easy to administer, and has no potential for abuse. *Reference: K Sporer and A Kral, Prescription Naloxone: A Novel Approach to Heroin Overdose Prevention, Annals of Emergency Medicine, 2007, Volume 49, Issue 2, Pages 172-177.*

Program Overview

Programs participating in the pilot project offer counseling and referrals to substance abuse treatment for all participants who are misusing opioids. These programs train opioid users, their families and their friends on how to prevent and recognize an opioid overdose, and what to do if one occurs. The training covers the importance of calling 9-1-1, how to perform rescue breathing, how to administer nasal naloxone, and how to provide after-naloxone care.

This pilot project is possible under Massachusetts General Law - MGL c. 94C and DPH Drug Control Program regulations at 105 CMR 700.000.

Where to Get Naloxone in Massachusetts

- **AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod**
96-98 Bradford Street, Provincetown
Contact: 866-668-6448

428 South Street, Hyannis
Contact: 866-990-2437
- **Boston Public Health Commission**
Mobile Unit—call for locations
Contact: 617-592-7828
- **CAB Health and Recovery**
280 Union Street, Lynn
Contact: 781-592-0243

42 Washington Street, Gloucester
Contact: 978-283-4363
- **Brockton Area Multi-Services, Inc.**
81 Pleasant Street, Brockton
Contact: 508-583-3405
- **Cambridge Cares About AIDS**
17 Sellers Street, Cambridge
Contact: 617-599-0246
- **Seven Hills Behavioral Health**
1287 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford
Contact: 508-996-0546

310 South Main Street, Fall River
Contact: 508-235-1012
- **Tapestry Health**
16 Center Street, Suite 423, Northampton
Contact: 413-586-0310

39 Mulberry St, lower level, Springfield
Contact: 413-734-8766

For More Information

- To hear recorded information on how to prevent, recognize, and respond to an opioid overdose call: **800-383-2437**
- If you have questions about the DPH naloxone distribution pilot contact: Sarah Ruiz at 617-624-5136 or at Sarah.Ruiz@state.ma.us
- For the latest information on where to get naloxone or for a treatment referral call: the Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline at **800-327- 5050**