



January 19, 2017

Street Opioid Resuscitation Recommendations

For the General Public

Treatment for the opioid overdose patient currently consists of supportive care and the antidote naloxone. Naloxone should now be available in Canada from pharmacies without prescription, and can be obtained by asking the pharmacist for the medication. In Ontario, most pharmacies will provide two vials of naloxone (0.4 mg per vial), two syringes and needles, and instructions for its use. Various other public health departments also have naloxone distribution programs that may provide more doses of naloxone. Eventually, an intranasal naloxone form may be available (4.0 mg naloxone per syringe).

When coming upon a potentially overdosed patient, the lay rescuer should

1. Check that the victim is able to be wakened by calling out to them and/or shaking them
2. IF NOT ROUSABLE, **Call 911** and start chest compressions if trained (911 operators can assist with chest compression instructions if you are not trained)
AND
3. IF AVAILABLE and TRAINED, give 1 vial of naloxone (0.4mg) IM
4. Continue chest compressions
5. If no response in 3 minutes, repeat the naloxone dose. This dose can be doubled on the second attempt IF adequate naloxone available
6. Continue chest compressions until help arrives