



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1033-07 Administration of Opioid Antagonist (Narcan)

Section 1000 – Patrol Functions

Effective Date: 12/4/2023

Supersedes Date: 6/15/2023

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines governing the administration of Narcan by trained employees of the Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) who are on scene prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel in an effort to reduce the severity of injuries and fatalities from opioid involved overdoses and accidental exposure.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1033 Controlled Substance Violations](#)

.03 Definitions

Narcan Division Coordinator (or Division Coordinator): A lieutenant or civilian manager designated in each division responsible for maintaining and reporting the division's inventory of Narcan to the Narcan Program Administrator.

Narcan Program Administrator (or Program Administrator): A patrol commander designated by the Office of the Chief.

Opioid Antagonist: Naloxone Hydrochloride or any similarly acting opioid antagonist that is not a controlled substance and that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of a drug overdose (CRS § 13-21-108.7(2)(d)). The CSPD uses Naloxone Hydrochloride under the brand name Narcan.

Opioid-Related Drug Overdose Event: Means an acute condition, including a decreased level of consciousness or respiratory depression, that: 1) Results from the consumption of a use of a controlled substance or another substance with which a controlled substance was combined; 2) A layperson would reasonably believe to be an opiate-related drug overdose event; and 3) Requires medical assistance (CRS § 13-21-108.7(2)(e)).

.04 Procedure

Abuse of opioid drugs poses a substantial risk of an overdose death. Exposure to opioids, such as fentanyl, can pose a risk to first responders. An opiate antagonist such as Narcan may reverse an opiate overdose if administered in a timely manner. Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) § 18-1-712 allows for the use of opiate antagonists for the purpose of saving lives of people who suffer opioid-related drug overdose events.

Employees are reminded that CRS § 18-1-711 grants immunity from arrest and prosecution for unlawful possession or use of a controlled substance when a person reports in good faith an emergency drug overdose and that person remains at the scene and cooperates with law enforcement.

Employees, both sworn and civilian, trained in the use of Narcan may administer Narcan to a person when they believe the person is suffering an opioid-related drug overdose event and medical assistance is not immediately available. Trained personnel may administer Narcan to themselves or other personnel, including canines, when they believe exposure to an opioid has occurred. Employees will administer and report the use of Narcan in a manner consistent with current training and this directive.

Training

Civilian personnel who are at risk of an opioid exposure and all sworn employees issued Narcan are required to be trained in the use of Narcan. Training will include, at minimum, an overview of department policy, Colorado CRS permitting the use of Narcan by law enforcement (C.R.S. § 12-30-110, 18-1-712, 13-21-108.7), patient assessment (e.g., signs & symptoms of overdose), universal precautions, seeking medical attention, and how to properly administer the Narcan issued by the department. The Training Academy will maintain documentation of all required Narcan training.

General Provisions

Only employees authorized by the department may possess or administer Narcan. Trained employees will be issued a single dose of Narcan Nasal Spray, in a dosage currently approved by the Colorado Springs Fire Department Co-Medical Director. Dosages provided by the department have been approved. Patrol officers are required to have their Narcan readily available to them while on duty. Other employees should have their Narcan readily available any time they are performing duties that may put them at risk of an opioid exposure (e.g., transporting or processing narcotic evidence, executing a search warrant, searching vehicles, etc.).

Employees should check the medication at the beginning of the shift to ensure the package has not been opened and the medicine has not expired. If an employee discovers the product is expired or has been compromised in another manner, the employee shall return the product to the Narcan Division Coordinator who will issue a new nasal spray dispenser.

In addition to issuing Narcan to individual employees, there are locations in each police facility that may pose a higher risk to opioid exposure and therefore should have a box of Narcan readily available for an emergency. Division Coordinators should ensure the following locations have one two-dose sealed box labeled “EMERGENCY USE ONLY”:

- Report writing room
- Evidence processing rooms at each division, the POC, and in the evidence unit
- Lab
- Booking room
- Other locations as determined by the Narcan Division Coordinator in consultation with the Program Administrator

Dispensing Narcan

A properly trained employee may in good faith administer Narcan whenever the employee believes someone is the victim of an opioid-related drug overdose event. The medicine should be applied in accordance with the employee’s training. After dispensing Narcan, employees should position the individual on their side in the recovery position. Employees administering Narcan on an unfamiliar citizen should use caution if administering the medication without another employee or officer present. In someone who has been using opioids regularly, opioid withdrawal symptoms may occur suddenly and pose a risk to the employee. EMS personnel must be called anytime Narcan is dispensed because the reversal of opioid symptoms may be temporary. **If medical personnel have not yet arrived, continue to monitor the person closely. If the person does not respond in approximately two minutes, administer a second dose of Narcan.** The responding EMS personnel will determine whether the patient requires further evaluation or transport.

An employee, or another person, dispensing Narcan in good faith to an individual believed to be suffering an opioid-related drug overdose event is immune from criminal prosecution for the act (CRS § 18-1-712; CRS § 12-30-110).

Canine Narcan

Members of the CSPD canine unit are authorized to carry an intramuscular injectable form of Narcan for administering to a canine experiencing the symptoms of an opioid exposure. Members of the unit will handle, store, and administer the medication in accordance with the department’s veterinarian’s orders. The injectable Narcan will not be used on humans and no other department member may administer the injectable Narcan on a canine. The Tactical Lieutenant and Sergeant are responsible for coordinating the injectable Narcan program for the Canine Unit.

In the event a canine handler is incapacitated, or an intramuscular injection is not present on scene, officers may administer the Narcan Nasal Spray in the same manner they would on a human. Anytime Narcan is administered to a canine, the canine supervisor shall be immediately notified.

The canine supervisor shall report annually to the Program Administrator the use of Narcan on department canines.

Narcan Reporting

The employee administering Narcan is responsible for completing a Medical Report in Blue Team. The report will document the date, time, location, name and demographic information of the assisted person, the involved employee, and circumstances resulting in employee intervention. Employees shall ensure the following information is captured in the narrative.

- Nature of the call
- Symptoms observed indicating an opioid-related drug overdose event
- Documentation of the administration of the Narcan including how many doses were applied
- Whether the administration of Narcan was effective
- Disposition of the assisted person

It is not necessary to document Narcan use by outside agencies. Prior to forwarding the Blue Team report to the employee's supervisor, employees will print a copy of the report. The printed report will be provided to a supervisor before receiving a new Narcan dispenser. A supervisor shall not dispense the Narcan without proof the Blue Team report has been completed.

Narcan Storage and Disposal

The division coordinator is responsible for the storage and security of the Narcan issued to the division. It is the responsibility of the individual employee to store and secure the Narcan individually issued to them.

Narcan should be stored, as much as possible, at room temperature between 59–77 ° Fahrenheit. It should be kept out of direct sunlight and never frozen. Due to the temperature sensitivity of the medicine, employees should not leave Narcan in their work or personal vehicles between shifts and should remain cognizant of the location and temperature in which it is stored. If the outer packaging of the Narcan dosage unit becomes damaged, employees are cautioned to not place tape or anything else on this packaging which would prevent quick deployment/removal in the case of an emergency.

Expired or unserviceable Narcan dosing units will be collected and counted by the division coordinator, packaged, and sealed in bulk, entered into EvidenceOnQ, and submitted to the Evidence Unit for destruction. Once this is completed, the division coordinator will report the destruction to the Program Administrator.

Narcan Program Administration

The Narcan Program Administrator is responsible for coordinating the overall administration of the program. This includes consulting with the department's designated medical advisor, annually reporting to the chief of police how many doses were administered each year, coordinate the purchase of and distribution of Narcan throughout the department, inventory tracking, and coordinating with the CSPD Training Academy to ensure training materials are in accordance with best practices and the orders of the department's advising physician.

Each division commander within the department will designate a lieutenant or civilian manager as the Narcan Division Coordinator to assist in managing the inventory at their respective division. The division coordinators will report to the Narcan Program Administrator on a quarterly basis the current inventory, the expiration dates of the doses issued to employees and maintained in the division's inventory, and how many new doses may need to be ordered in the future.

The division coordinators are responsible for issuing Narcan to employees when needed.