



# MAINE STATE POLICE GENERAL ORDER

## E-134

**SUBJECT:** MAINE STATE POLICE POLICY REGARDING USE OF NARCAN

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 08.01.2020

**EXPIRATION DATE:** 08.01.2027

**RECENT HISTORY:** AMENDED (08.01.2020); AMENDED (02.25.2020); TECHNICAL AMENDMENT (UPDATED ATTACHMENT)(06.05.2017); AMENDED (04.20.2017); TECHNICAL CORRECTION (WORD CORRECTION)(02.07.2017); 12.07.2016 (NEW)

**DISTRIBUTION CODE:** 2 (MAY BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED)

**APPLICABILITY CODE:** S, Z

**SIGNATURE OF COLONEL:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. B. R.", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

### I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this General Order is to establish the Maine State Police policy regarding the use of Narcan by trained Maine State Police sworn personnel, with the principal objective being the treatment and reduction of injuries and fatalities relating to opioid-involved overdoses.

### II. POLICY

1. The policy of the Maine State Police is:
  - A. To provide assistance to any person who may be suffering from an opioid overdose;
  - B. When safe to do so, for Maine State Police sworn personnel to make every reasonable effort to revive victims of apparent drug

overdoses, including by administering Narcan in accordance with prior training and this policy.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

1. For the purposes of this General Order, the terms included in this section are defined as follows, unless otherwise indicated in the order.
  - A. Drug intoxication. "Drug intoxication" means impaired mental or physical functioning resulting from the use of physiological and/or psychoactive substances.
    1. Persons suffering drug intoxication might display symptoms such as (as examples only) euphoria, dysphoria, apathy, sedation, attention impairment, or any other visible indicators of impairment.
  - B. Emergency medical services ("EMS"). "Emergency medical services" ("EMS") means services rendered in emergency circumstances by a licensed Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") or certified EMS first responder to a person to prevent the loss of the person's life or to treat any injury or illness the person is suffering.
  - C. Narcan. "Narcan" is the brand name of Naloxone, which is an opioid receptor antagonist and antidote for opioid overdose, that is produced in intramuscular, intranasal, or intravenous forms.
  - D. Narcan kit. "Narcan kit" means the delivery system approved and used by the Maine State Police to administer Narcan.
  - E. Opioids. "Opioids" means such drugs as (as examples only) heroin, carfentanil, fentanyl, morphine, buprenorphine, codeine, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, oxymorphone, methadone, and oxycodone.
  - F. Opioid overdose. "Opioid overdose" means an acute condition -- exemplified by such symptoms as extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, or death -- resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid, or another substance with which an opioid was combined, that a reasonable person would believe to be an opioid-related drug reaction that requires medical assistance.
  - G. Universal precautions. "Universal precautions" means an approach to infection control that presumes all human blood and human body fluids to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other such blood borne pathogens.

### **IV. PROCEDURE**

1. TRAINING

- A. Prior to being able to use Narcan in accordance with this General Order, a Maine State Police sworn officer shall participate in approved training on the topic of responding to persons suffering from an apparent opioid overdose, and on the use of Narcan.
  - 1. Such training must be in accordance with the protocols adopted by the Medical Direction and Practices Board, as defined at [32 M.R.S. sec. 83, sub-sec. 16-B](#).
  - 2. Such training must occur every two years at the Troop-/Unit-level.
    - a. The Commanding Officers of each respective Troop and Unit shall ensure that all sworn members under their Command are duly trained, as required by this Order.

## 2. ISSUANCE OF NARCAN

- A. Sworn personnel who have been trained in accordance with this policy and to whom Narcan is issued must maintain the Narcan kit and a one-way CPR face mask/barrier device within their assigned cruisers at all times while on duty.
  - 1. At a minimum, Commanders shall assign a Narcan kit to each sworn member under their command who are assigned a uniformed patrol assignment.
    - a. If additional Narcan kits are available, a Commander may assign such to sworn members under his or her command who are not primarily assigned a uniformed patrol assignment.
- B. Narcan must be provided to sworn personnel in a clearly marked kit.
- C. Each Narcan kit must include instructions for administering Narcan.
- D. Members carrying one or more Narcan kits shall have a one-way CPR face mask/barrier device available for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

## 3. USE OF NARCAN

- A. When a sworn member who has been trained in accordance with this policy encounters a person who appears to be suffering an opioid overdose:

1. The sworn member shall maintain universal precautions throughout the encounter;
2. If the Regional Communications Center ("RCC") is not already aware of the apparent overdose, as soon as practicable the sworn member shall contact the proper RCC via police radio or telephone, report the possible opioid overdose, and request EMS response;
3. The sworn member shall check the responsiveness and the vital signs (such as breathing and pulse) of the overdosing person.
  - a. This will include, for example, determining whether the person is awake and talking, is responsive to verbal stimulation only, is responsive to painful stimulation only, or is completely unresponsive;
4. The sworn member shall check the overdosing person for medic alert tags indicating pre-existing medical conditions.
  - a. Such a tag often is located around a person's neck, wrist, or ankle;
5. Prior to administering Narcan, the sworn member should ensure that the overdosing person is in a safe location and remove any sharp or heavy objects from the person's immediate reach.
  - a. This is because sudden onset of immediate opioid withdrawal may result in physical symptoms such as agitation, rapid heart rate, nausea, seizures, and difficulty breathing;
6. Prior to administering Narcan, the sworn member may handcuff the overdosing person if, in the judgment of the sworn member, doing so is necessary to protect the safety of the sworn member, the overdosing person, and/or other persons present.
7. The sworn member shall administer Narcan in accordance with the member's training, using a Narcan kit the member has been trained to use.
8. If the overdosing person is not breathing, or the person's respirations are not sufficient to provide the person with adequate oxygen, AND it is reasonably safe to do so, the sworn member may start rescue breaths using a one-way CPR face mask/barrier protection device.

- a. The member shall continue to do so until either the person is independently breathing sufficiently or EMS arrives and takes over treatment, or it becomes unsafe for the member to continue to administer such breaths;
9. If, after two (2) of administering Narcan, there is no improvement (that is, the overdosing person is not breathing), the sworn member shall administer one (1) additional dose of Narcan, if available.
  - a. The member may continue administering rescue breaths using a one-way CPR face mask/barrier protection device until either the person is independently breathing sufficiently or EMS arrives and takes over treatment, or it becomes unsafe for the member to continue to administer such breaths;
10. To the extent practicable, the sworn member shall keep the RCC appraised of the condition of the overdosing person throughout the overdose incident;
11. Once she or he is able to safely do so, the sworn member shall seize all illegal and/or non-prescribed narcotics found on and around the overdosing person, and process such narcotics in accordance with Maine State Police policy;
12. Once she or he is able to safely do so, the sworn member shall turn the used Narcan kit over to the EMS or hospital personnel for proper disposal immediately following administration, as the device used to administer the Narcan, once used, is considered bio-hazardous material.

#### 4. REPORTING

##### A. After administering Narcan, a sworn member shall:

1. Request a separate closure code that will be coded as "Narcan" for documentation purposes, and will require a description of:
  - a. The overdosing person's condition and behavior;
  - b. The fact that Narcan was deployed on the overdosing person;
  - c. The EMS personnel involved in the incident, and their response;
  - d. The hospital to which the overdosing person was transported;
  - e. Any narcotics seized;

- f. The final outcome of the medical response (if known); and
- g. If criminal charges result from the overdose incident, an arrest report must be included with the offense report;

- 2. Complete and attach to the incident report a "[Narcan Administration Report](#)" (see attached); and
- 3. Submit the offense report through the proper Chain-of-Command.

## 5. INSPECTION, STORAGE, AND REPLACEMENT OF NARCAN KITS

- A. Inspection of Narcan kits shall be the responsibility of each sworn officer to whom kits are issued.
- B. At the start of each shift, each officer shall conduct an inspection of each Narcan kit issued to him or her. This inspection must include:
  - 1. Checking the expiration date found on either the Narcan kit box or vial; and
  - 2. Checking the condition of the Narcan kit.
- C. Narcan must be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. **NOTE: Narcan can freeze and/or experience reduced effectiveness if continually exposed to cold weather; therefore, officers should take reasonable steps to ensure that Narcan is usable (and not frozen) prior to administering it.**
- D. A missing, damaged, or expired Narcan kit must be promptly reported by the officer to whom the kit was issued, through the Chain-of-Command, to the Commanding Officer of the officer's Troop or Unit.
  - 1. Requests for a replacement kit should be made by an officer through the Chain-of-Command, to the Commanding Officer of the officer's Troop or Unit.
- E. The Commanding Officer who oversees Supply shall coordinate the procurement and replacement of Narcan kits.

## 6. USE OF NARCAN ON MAINE STATE POLICE CANINES

- A. In accordance with training provided by the Principle Canine Trainer of the Maine State Police, a sworn member may administer Narcan to a Maine State Police canine that is exhibiting symptoms of overdose after a known or possible exposure to opioids.

## 7. REFERENCE

1. [22 M.R.S. sec. 2353, sub-sec. 3 and 5](#) provide as follows:

....

**3. Authorized administration of naloxone hydrochloride [i.e., Narcan] by law enforcement officers and municipal firefighters.** A law enforcement officer as defined in Title 17-A , section 2, subsection 17, in accordance with the policies adopted by the law enforcement agency, and a municipal firefighter as defined in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 2, in accordance with the policies adopted by the municipality, may administer intranasal naloxone hydrochloride as clinically indicated if the officer or firefighter has received medical training in the accordance with the protocols adopted by the Medical Direction and Practices Board established in Title 32, section 83, subsection 16-B. The medical Direction and the Practices Board shall establish medical training protocols for Law enforcement offices and municipal firefighters pursuant to the subsection.

....

**5. Immunity.** The following provisions provide immunity for actions taken in accordance with this section.

A. A health care professional or a pharmacist, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, is immune from criminal and civil liability and is not subject to professional disciplinary action for storing, dispensing or prescribing naloxone hydrochloride in accordance with this section or for any outcome resulting from such actions.

B. A person, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, is immune from criminal and civil liability and is not subject to professional disciplinary action for possessing or providing to another person naloxone hydrochloride in accordance with this section or for administering naloxone hydrochloride in accordance with this section to an individual whom the person believes in good faith is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or for any outcome resulting from such actions.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

### [Narcan Administration Report](#)

**NOTICE**

**THIS GENERAL ORDER IS FOR USE OF THE MAINE STATE POLICE AND NOT FOR ANY OTHER AGENCY. THE GENERAL ORDER IS NOT INTENDED TO BE RELIED UPON BY ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL OR PRIVATE OR PUBLIC AGENCY. THE GENERAL ORDER EXPRESSLY DOES NOT CREATE, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO CREATE, A HIGHER LEGAL STANDARD OF SAFETY OR CARE IN AN EVIDENTIARY SENSE WITH RESPECT TO THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS. VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDER ONLY MAY FORM THE BASIS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS BY THE MAINE STATE POLICE.**