



**CHEVY CHASE
VILLAGE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Police Chief: John Fitzgerald

GENERAL ORDER: 5-60; OVERDOSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

DATE: 3/2/2017 Pages: 2 ◇ New ◆ Amended ◇ Revised

I. POLICY

In order to prevent opioid overdose deaths, officers who are confronted with a person suspected of suffering from an opioid overdose will summon EMS, administer the drug according to training, and will provide rescue breathing or CPR as needed until EMS arrives and takes over.

II. BACKGROUND

Heroin (and other opioid drugs) overdoses and overdose deaths have risen sharply in Montgomery County recently. For years, EMS providers have successfully used naloxone to treat overdoses of heroin and other opiates (morphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, Percocet, Percodan and hydrocodone). The drug is effective at reversing the effects of an overdose when administered in time, and it has minimal side effects. If it is administered to a person who is not suffering an opiate overdose, it will do no harm.

During an opiate overdose, a patient may suffer a disruption in normal breathing. In some cases, breathing may stop altogether, quickly leading to death. Police officers often arrive on the scene of overdoses before EMS personnel have arrived. Your quick actions—performing rescue breathing as needed and administering naloxone in accord with your training—may help to save a life.

III. PROCEDURE

When a patrol officer arrives on the scene of a medical emergency prior to the arrival of Fire Department personnel, and determines that a patient is suffering from an opiate overdose, the officer will follow the below procedures:

- A. Ensure that EMS is en route. If the officer is uncertain if EMS has been requested, the officer will immediately request EMS to respond.
- B. Officers shall use universal precautions (medical gloves, mask with 1-way valve for rescue breathing, avoid contact with blood and body fluids) when dealing with any ill or injured person (to include suspected overdose patients).

- C. Officers shall conduct a medical assessment of the patient, to include statements made by witnesses regarding drug use.
- D. If the officer makes a determination that the patient is likely suffering from an opiate overdose, the naloxone kit should be utilized in accordance with training. (spray ½ of the naloxone vial into each nostril.)
- E. Officers should be aware that reversal of an opiate overdose may cause projectile vomiting and/or violent behavior.
- F. Officers will remain with the patient and will continue to observe and monitor the patient until relieved by Fire/EMS personnel.
- G. If the patient is not breathing but has a pulse, officers will perform rescue breathing. The rescue facemask will be utilized whenever practical.
- H. If the patient has no pulse, officers will perform CPR.
- I. The treating officer shall inform incoming Fire/EMS personnel about the treatment and condition of the patient, and shall not relinquish care of the patient until relieved by a person with an equal or higher level of medical training.

J. Officers will help ensure the patient is transported to the hospital. If the patient will not go to the hospital voluntarily, then the emergency evaluation process will be initiated **only** if there is evidence that:

- 1. the patient attempted suicide by their intentional ingestion of opiates, or
- 2. the patient expresses suicidal thoughts or ideas, or
- 3. the officer has reason to believe that the patient is suffering from a mental disorder and they are a danger to themselves or others (the basic criteria of the emergency petition process).

K. If the adult patient continues to refuse transport in all other cases, and they reasonably appear to have the capacity to make medical decisions, they may legally refuse further medical assistance.

L. In most cases, juvenile patients may not refuse treatment when there is no parent/guardian on scene.

M. Officers will complete a preliminary investigation into any suspected criminal conduct that is related to the overdose (possession or distribution of CDS) and the report will include the details of that investigation.

IV. REPORTING

- A. Officers will complete an incident report to document their response to an overdose call. If an officer administers naloxone, that fact, along with any other relevant details, will be captured in the report.
- B. The classification will usually be 1848-2 (overdose, non-fatal) or 2914-2 (sudden death, undetermined), however, officers will clear the call using the most appropriate clearance based upon the circumstances known to them.
- C. Officers will call Poison Control (1-800-222-1222) immediately after any law enforcement use of Naloxone. The operator will ask specific questions regarding the use for statistical purposes.

V. CARRYING, STORAGE AND REPLACEMENT

- A. Each patrol officer will be equipped with a storage container containing a 2 milligram dose of Naloxone Hydrochloride and a nasal atomizer. Officers must carry the medication with them (either on their person or in their vehicle) when they are on duty.

NOTE: It is recommended that officers keep the medication in their rifle soft bag so that it will be routinely placed in the car at the start of a tour of duty and removed at the end of the tour of duty.

- B. Officers shall immediately notify the Lieutenant whenever they need to replace the medication and atomizer (after they use it; if the items are lost or damaged; etc.). The Lieutenant will replace the items as promptly as is practical.
- C. The Department will replace all medication and atomizers every two years before expiration.
- D. The medication is temperature sensitive. Officers must not leave the medication in any vehicle for extended periods of time in cold or hot weather. Officers will not leave the medication in any vehicle when

they are off duty.

VI. TRAINING

- A. Prior to carrying or administering naloxone, officers will be trained.
- B. Training will be provided by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services under the medical supervision of an HHS physician.

This directive voids the previous version dated 5/27/2014.