NALOXONE IN THE WORKPLACE

Clifford S. Mitchell, MS, MD, MPH
Director, Environmental Health Bureau
Maryland Department of Health

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Naloxone in the Workplace

Outline

- Naloxone and Opioids
- Opioids in the Workplace
- Naloxone in the Workplace – Myths, Misconceptions, and Realities
Disclaimers

- Dr. Mitchell has no conflicts to declare.
Opioids in the Workplace

What are some of the known risk factors:
- Certain industries and occupations are known to have increased risk
  - Construction
  - Bar/restaurant workers
  - Transportation
  - Healthcare

Obstacles to more effective management
- “Zero tolerance” policies and stigma
- Injury prevention
- Medical provider education/monitoring (Prescription Drug Monitoring)
- Lack of good data
What is Naloxone?
- Short-acting opioid antagonist – chemically similar to opioids with large side groups
- Blocks opioid receptors, reversing uptake of opioids
- Fast acting -- 2 hour duration of action, 4 hour elimination from the body
- Naltrexone is the longer acting version
- Administration can be subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, intranasal or via endotracheal tube
- Typical dose is 0.4 – 2 mg
- Few contraindications (only hypersensitivity to Naloxone)

Indications
- Acute overdose from opioids
On 6/1/23 Ontario workplaces will be required to have Naloxone available if employers are aware of:

- A risk of a worker opioid overdose.
- A risk that the worker overdoses while in a workplace where they perform work for the employer.
- The risk is posed by a worker who performs work for the employer.

The National Safety Council has urged employers to add Naloxone to their workplace first aid kits (2019)
Obstacles and Opportunities

- Concerns
  - Legal
  - Administrative
  - Stigma/Perception

- Opportunities