



*2023 CHESAPEAKE AIHA/ASSP EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR*

# **NALOXONE IN THE WORKPLACE**

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# Outline

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

# Disclaimers

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- ❖ Dr. Mitchell has no conflicts to declare.

# Opioids in the Workplace

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- ❖ 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

# Naloxone and Opioids

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## ❖ 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
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# Naloxone in the Workplace

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- ❖ 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

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## ❖ Concerns

- Legal
- Administrative
- Stigma/Perception

## ❖ Opportunities