things to do in recognizing and responding to an opiate/heroin overdose using naloxone

Naloxone is not a Scheduled Drug – it has no potential for abuse.

Naloxone is also called Narcan®.

Naloxone is a pure antidote to opiates including heroin – it reverses the effects of heroin for about an hour.

Naloxone does not eliminate heroin.

Naloxone has no effects of its own.

Naloxone has no potential for abuse.

Naloxone can cause withdrawal in a person with a habit.

Naloxone withdrawal can harm someone.

Naloxone more than one shot may be needed to stop overdose.

Naloxone overdoses may return when naloxone wears off (about one hour).

For more information, please contact:

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Naloxone is a medication prescribed for the reversal of opiate intoxication. The person possessing naloxone has been trained in its safe usage and has demonstrated competency in managing opiate/heroin overdose situations.

This program is designed to reduce the nearly 500 opiate-related overdose deaths in Chicagoland each year. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Stimulation

Can they be awakened?

Call for help

If the person is not responsive.

Airway

Make sure nothing is inside the person’s mouth stopping the breathing.

Rescue breathing

Breathe for them – two quick breaths every five seconds.

Evaluate

Are they any better? Can you get naloxone and prepare it quick enough that they won’t go for too long without your breathing assistance?

Muscular injection

Inject 1cc of naloxone into a muscle.

Evaluate + support

Is the person breathing on their own?

Is another dose of naloxone needed?

Naloxone wears off in 30-90 minutes. Seek help and comfort him/her so he/she will not use any more drug until the naloxone wears off.

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