



PEI College of Occupational Therapists

Naloxone Guiding Document for Occupational Therapists on PEI

As health care professionals, occupational therapists (OTs) work in a wide range of practice settings and may encounter individuals from time to time who are at risk for opioid overdose. This PEICOT guiding document aims to clarify information for OTs who may encounter an individual experiencing an opioid overdose, and to provide information about the medication Naloxone.

What is naloxone?

Naloxone (Narcan[®]) is a medication used to treat the effects of opioid overdose in an emergency. It is a fast-acting medication used to temporarily reverse the symptoms of an opioid overdose until medical help arrives.

Reserved Activity

According to the PEI Regulated Health Professions Act, at section 86(1)(e), OTs are not authorized to administer Naloxone either by injection or inhalation. OTs, as such, cannot be required to administer Naloxone by any person (i.e. employer) (section 88).

Administering Naloxone is a reserved activity, pursuant to section 86(1)(e) of the RHPA.

86. Reserved activities

(e) administering a substance by injection, inhalation, mechanical ventilation or irrigation.

88. Requiring another person to perform reserved act

No person shall require another person to perform a reserved activity if that other person is not authorized to perform it.

Emergency Situations

However, according to the RHPA (86)(4b) OTs are not prohibited from administering Naloxone in the event of an emergency situation.

86. Activities may be exempted

4 (2) does not apply if the person performs the reserved activity in the course of:

(b) rendering first aid or temporary assistance in an emergency.

Certified Training

According to “Naloxone Administration by Non-Nursing Staff” policy by Health PEI (May 2023), non-nursing mental health and addictions (MH&A) staff who **wish** to administer Naloxone **must be certified** to administer Naloxone through successful completion of a training program approved by the MH&A Research and Education Department, Health PEI. OTs **should not** administer Naloxone if they have not been certified to do so. Once certified, OTs will be **required** under Health PEI policy to administer Naloxone in the event of an overdose emergency. <https://www.peiot.org/documents#standards>

Liability

In the PEI Volunteers Liability Act, “volunteer” means any individual, not in receipt of fees, wages or salary. According to this Act, OTs are not protected during work hours. However, OTs outside work hours are protected by this Act and as volunteers, are not liable for damages for injuries to or the death of that person who received the medication.

1. *Definition of volunteer*

(1) *In this Act, “volunteer” means any individual, not in receipt of fees, wages or salary therefor, who renders services or assistance, whether or not that individual has special training to render the service or assistance and whether or not the service or assistance is rendered by the individual alone or in conjunction with others.*

2. *Emergency assistance to person*

Where, in respect of a person who is ill, injured or unconscious as a result of an accident or other emergency, a volunteer renders services or assistance at any place, the volunteer is not liable for damages for injuries to or the death of that person alleged to have been caused by an act on the part of the volunteer while rendering services or assistance.

Liability Insurance

Historically, BMS Group (CAOT Insurance Program), has not provided liability insurance for administration of naloxone. However, as per our PEICOT request, BMS Group has recently changed their professional liability coverage for OTs. The insurance policy will now **“extend the OT’s professional liability insurance coverage to include claims arising from the emergency administration of naloxone by an Insured OT while providing Professional Services, to a person suspected of suffering from an overdose of opioids; provided, that the Insured OT has received the appropriate training prior to administer the naloxone”**.

If an OT, registered with PEICOT, has another insurance program, please contact the insurance company to determine professional liability coverage for the administration of Naloxone during paid work hours.

Resources

Regulated Health Professions Act

https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/r-10-1-regulated_health_professions_act.pdf

Volunteers Liability Act

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/V-05-Volunteers%20Liability%20Act.pdf>

Naloxone Administration by Non-Nursing Staff policy by Health PEI (May 2023)

<https://www.peiot.org/documents#standards>

BMS Group – CAOT Insurance Program

Approved By	Established	Revision History	Next Review
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