



Fern Ridge School District 28J

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Parents and guardians of FRSD Students: Please see the required annual notice below, regarding the District's compliance with SB 1552 regarding the district short-acting opioid antagonist school practices.

(4)(a) A school district [board] shall provide to the parent or legal guardian of each minor student enrolled in a school in the school district information regarding short-acting opioid antagonists. The information described in this subsection must include at least:

(A) A description of short-acting opioid antagonists and their purpose;

Short-acting opioid antagonists are medications designed to quickly reverse the effects of opioids in the body. They bind to the opioid receptors in the brain, displacing any opioids present and blocking their effects. These antagonists are typically used in emergency situations, such as opioid overdose, to rapidly restore normal breathing and consciousness.

The purpose of short-acting opioid antagonists includes:

Overdose Reversal: The primary purpose of short-acting opioid antagonists is to reverse the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose. Opioids, such as heroin, fentanyl, or prescription painkillers, can suppress breathing and lead to respiratory failure, coma, or death. Administering an opioid antagonist promptly can counteract these effects and restore normal breathing, potentially saving the person's life.

Emergency Treatment: Short-acting opioid antagonists are used in emergency medical settings, such as hospitals and ambulance services, to treat opioid overdose quickly and effectively. Time is crucial in such situations, and these antagonists provide a rapid response to counteract the overdose effects.

Preventive Measures: In some cases, short-acting opioid antagonists may be administered as a preventive measure in high-risk situations, such as when individuals with a history of opioid abuse are prescribed opioid painkillers. Providing access to these antagonists alongside opioids can help mitigate the risk of overdose.

Research and Clinical Studies: Short-acting opioid antagonists are also used in research settings to study opioid addiction, overdose, and potential treatments. Clinical studies may investigate the efficacy and safety of different antagonist formulations or delivery methods.

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Examples of short-acting opioid antagonists include naloxone and naltrexone. Naloxone is particularly well-known for its ability to rapidly reverse opioid overdose effects and is commonly used by emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officers, and bystanders trained in opioid overdose response. Naltrexone is also used in the treatment of opioid addiction but has a longer duration of action compared to naloxone. These medications play a crucial role in addressing the opioid crisis and saving lives threatened by opioid overdose.

(B) A statement regarding, in an emergency situation, the risks of administering to an individual a short-acting opioid antagonist and the risks of not administering to an individual a short-acting opioid antagonist;

In an emergency situation involving a suspected opioid overdose, the risks of administering a short-acting opioid antagonist, such as naloxone, to an individual must be weighed against the risks of not administering it.

The risks of administering a short-acting opioid antagonist include:

Precipitating Withdrawal Symptoms: Administration of naloxone can rapidly reverse the effects of opioids, potentially causing the individual to experience withdrawal symptoms such as agitation, nausea, vomiting, sweating, and increased heart rate. While withdrawal symptoms are uncomfortable, they are generally not life-threatening.

Potential for Agitation or Violence: Some individuals may become agitated or hostile upon awakening from opioid overdose reversal, particularly if they were using opioids in combination with other substances. This could pose risks to both the individual and bystanders.

Underlying Medical Conditions: There may be underlying medical conditions or complications that are not immediately apparent, and administering naloxone could exacerbate these conditions or complicate subsequent medical treatment.

On the other hand, the risks of not administering a short-acting opioid antagonist are far more severe and may include:

Respiratory Depression and Respiratory Arrest: Opioids can cause severe respiratory depression, leading to respiratory arrest and ultimately death if left untreated. Naloxone rapidly reverses opioid-induced respiratory depression, restoring normal breathing and preventing fatal outcomes.

Loss of Consciousness: Opioid overdose can result in loss of consciousness and coma, which can lead to aspiration, airway obstruction, and other complications. Administering naloxone can rapidly restore consciousness, allowing for proper airway management and medical assessment.

Brain Damage or Death: Prolonged lack of oxygen due to opioid-induced respiratory depression can result in brain damage or death. Time is critical in such situations, and delaying administration of naloxone increases the risk of irreversible harm.

In summary, while there are potential risks associated with administering a short-acting opioid antagonist in an emergency situation, the immediate dangers of untreated opioid overdose far outweigh these risks.

Administering naloxone promptly can save lives by reversing respiratory depression and preventing potentially fatal outcomes.

[(C) A statement that all schools within the school district have access to short-acting opioid antagonists and the necessary medical supplies to administer the short-acting opioid antagonist on site; and]

All schools within the school district are equipped with short-acting opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, and have access to the necessary medical supplies and training to administer these medications on site in the event of an opioid overdose emergency. This proactive measure ensures the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors by providing prompt and potentially life-saving intervention in cases of opioid overdose within school premises.

(C) A statement identifying which schools, if any, in the school district will have short acting opioid antagonists, and the necessary medical supplies to administer short-acting opioid antagonists, on site and available for emergency situations; and

In our school district, all four schools (**Veneta Elementary, Elmira Elementary, Fern Ridge Middle School, Elmira High School, as well as the District Office**) are equipped with the short-acting opioid antagonist, naloxone. In addition, they have access to the necessary medical supplies and training to administer these medications on site in the event of an opioid overdose emergency. This proactive measure ensures the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors by providing prompt and potentially life-saving intervention in cases of opioid overdose within designated school premises.

(D) A statement that a representative of a school may administer to a student a short-acting opioid antagonist in an emergency if the student appears to be unconscious and experiencing an opioid overdose.

In the event of an emergency where a student appears to be unconscious and experiencing symptoms consistent with an opioid overdose, a representative of the school, such as a trained staff member or school nurse, is authorized to administer a short-acting opioid antagonist, such as naloxone. This proactive measure is in place to ensure the safety and well-being of students, providing immediate intervention to potentially reverse the effects of opioid overdose and prevent further harm.

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