

## Intranasal Narcan (Naloxone)

Last week (1/7/15) The La Conner Weekly News included a story about intranasal Narcan now being available at The La Conner Drug Store, joining Phoenix Recovery in Mount Vernon as the two locations where Narcan prescriptions can now be obtained in Skagit County. The Swinomish Police are in the process of outfitting all of their police vehicles with Narcan as well.

Paramedics in Washington State have carried Narcan in an IV form for decades, and continue to do so. Currently however Narcan, including the intranasal version, is not currently within the EMT-B scope of practice. Many individuals across the state working are actively working to have nasal Narcan added to the EMT-B scope of practice, however in the meantime it is important for first responders to understand how it works and that it is available in our community. Below is a short Q&A regarding Narcan:

### *Is naloxone just a "safety net" that allows users to use even more?*

Research studies have investigated this common concern and found that making naloxone available does NOT encourage people to use opiates more. The goal of distributing naloxone and educating people about how to prevent, recognize and intervene in overdoses is to prevent deaths. Other goals, such as decreasing drug use, can only be accomplished if the user is alive.

### *Which drugs are opioids?*

Heroin, morphine, oxycodone (Oxycontin), methadone, hydrocodone (Vicodin), codeine, and other prescription pain medications.

### *Can naloxone harm someone?*

No. If an opioid overdose is suspected, it is safe to give naloxone. People who used opioids will then wake up and go into withdrawal. Withdrawal is miserable but better than dying. Naloxone does not prevent deaths caused by other drugs such as benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax®, Klonopin® and Valium®), bath salts, cocaine, methamphetamine or alcohol. **Always call 911 as an overdose victim may need other care.**

### *How long does naloxone take to work?*

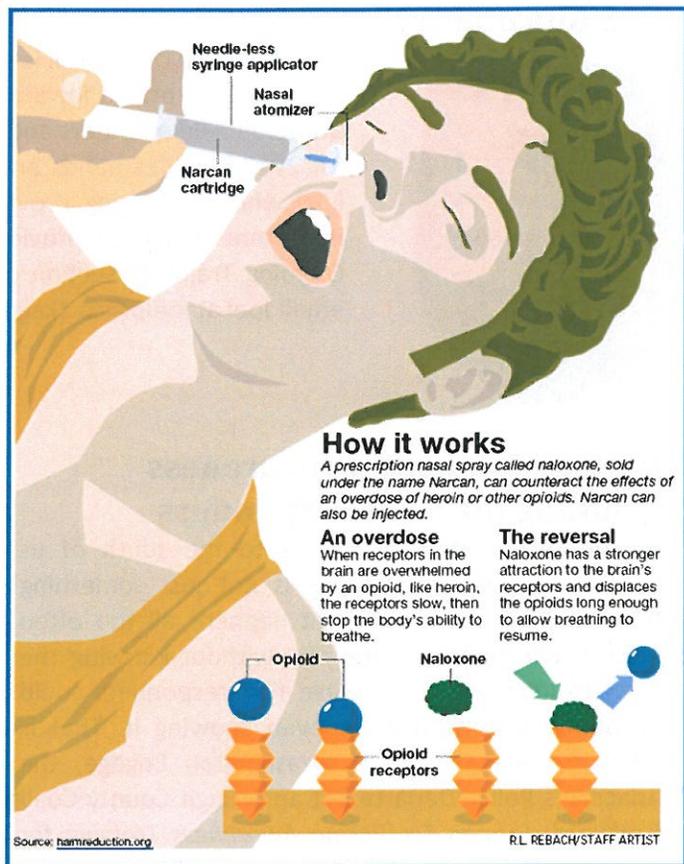
Naloxone acts in 2-5 minutes. If the person doesn't wake up in 5 minutes, bystanders should give a second dose. (Rescue breathing should be done while you wait for the naloxone to take effect to that the person gets oxygen to their brain.)

### *Can naloxone wear off before the drugs that cause the overdose?*

Yes. Naloxone typically wears off in 30-90 minutes and the person can stop breathing again unless more naloxone is available. For this reason, it is safest to call 911 and have the person taken for medical care.

The EMS office will continue to keep everyone informed of any new developments related to this issue, and if there are any questions, please email Mark at [markr@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:markr@co.skagit.wa.us) so we can share your question and the answer with everyone in a future Weekly Update.

Source: <http://stopoverdose.org/faq.htm>



## Centralized Ordering

Previously the EMS Commission allocated set dollar amounts to every BLS agency for the purchase of disposable EMS supplies. Beginning in 2015 the County is replacing that system with a centralized ordering system which will standardize disposable equipment to improve patient and provider safety. The new ordering system will be web based, and departments will be able to order most items in individual quantities, which will make managing storerooms much easier. It will also relieve the departments of much of the administrative paperwork associated with the current ordering and reimbursement process. Operative IQ ([www.operativeiq.com](http://www.operativeiq.com)) is the vendor that has been selected for this system improvement, and plans are to go live with centralized ordering by April 1st. In the meantime, agencies should continue to order disposable supplies under the current system. Questions or comments regarding centralized purchasing should be directed to Barb at [bjack@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:bjack@co.skagit.wa.us).



## BLS Glucometry



Our new MPD Dr. Russell is moving forward with the implementation of a BLS glucometry protocol for Skagit County EMTs. The new protocol will be sent out to all field providers and agencies by the end of the January. BLS OTEP #1 for 2015 includes hands on training with the new glucometers (pictured at left) which are being provided to all BLS agencies. Prior to OTEP #1 it is important that each provider completes "BLS Glucometry" in the "EMT – Ongoing Training" section of EMS Online. If you have any questions please email Joel at [joelp@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:joelp@co.skagit.wa.us).

## Human Trafficking Awareness Training for First Responders

As the recent story from just to the south of us illustrates, human trafficking is not just something that happens other places. It happens all too often here in Washington State, and without knowing the signs to look for, it's possible first responders could encounter victims without even knowing it. That is why, in partnership with Washington Engage, the Anacortes Police Department and Skagit County Coalition Against Trafficking will be hosting **Not In Our Backyard; Human Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Providers, Fire & EMS personnel** on Wednesday, **January 28, 2015**, from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM at the Swinomish Casino and Lodge, 28885 Casino Drive in Anacortes. RSVP Required; email [skcat@waengage.com](mailto:skcat@waengage.com).

**Skagit Coalition Against Trafficking**  
December 29 at 3:05 PM · 🌐

The teenager told detectives she earned about \$2,000 as a prostitute and gave the money to her mother. The older woman is now under arrest.

**Snohomish County woman accused of pimping daughter**  
[komonews.com](http://komonews.com)

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