

## **Campus Overdose Prevention Policy**

*This proposed policy is offered as an example based on the proactive model implemented at The University of Texas at Austin. For additional information, please refer to [OperationNaloxone.org](http://OperationNaloxone.org) and reach out to [OperationNaloxone@gmail.com](mailto:OperationNaloxone@gmail.com).*

### **Purpose**

Rates of death from drug overdose have risen dramatically since 2000 killing more than 60,000 Americans in 2016. College students are a high-risk population for drug misuse and combination drug use. Opioids are present in the majority of drug overdoses. Opioids cause death by inducing fatal respiratory depression which can easily be reversed by administering naloxone. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist (blocker) which rapidly counteracts the effects of opioids and has saved countless lives. Naloxone is not a controlled substance and cannot be abused or misused. Naloxone is available in several formulations that are conducive to layperson administration, including intramuscular and intranasal devices. Overdose response training is strongly recommended for potential overdose responders to ensure they can identify common symptoms of an opioid overdose, administer naloxone, and provide supportive care.

### **Residence Halls**

Naloxone should be available within every residence hall on campus for rapid access in the event of a suspected drug overdose. Every resident advisor should receive overdose response training.

### **Campus Police**

Naloxone should be carried by every campus police officer. In the event this is not feasible due to storage conditions, an alternative plan for rapid access to naloxone should be implemented. Every campus police officer should receive overdose response training.

### **Counseling Center**

Naloxone should be available to staff within the counseling and mental health center in preparation for a drug overdose. Every member of the staff should receive overdose response training. Additionally, staff should be prepared to identify students who are at high risk for drug overdose so they can provide naloxone or refer them to an alternative source for naloxone access. This policy should be replicated in the Center for Students in Recovery or similar units which support students with a history of substance use disorders.

### **Campus Pharmacy**

Naloxone should be available for purchase without a prescription under a standing order (an agreement between a physician and the pharmacy), and naloxone availability should be advertised to patients with a posted sign in the pharmacy. Pharmacists should complete applicable continuing education to ensure competence in identifying patients at risk for overdose and providing naloxone with appropriate education. Healthcare providers in campus clinics should also complete applicable continuing education and be aware of naloxone availability in the campus pharmacy for student referrals.

### **Awareness Campaign**

Students should be educated regarding naloxone availability through a multi-faceted approach including email, social media, posters, and open on-campus overdose response trainings. Students from health professions schools (e.g. pharmacy, medicine, nursing, social work) and student organizations (e.g. student government, health promotion, students for sensible drug policy) should be engaged to promote awareness and education with the goal of decreasing stigma and preventing overdose deaths.

**OPERATION  
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