

Initiation of Buprenorphine following Naloxone Intervention for Opiate Overdose in Emergency Departments in Alberta: A Case Study

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

Opiate overdoses are common admissions to emergency departments (EDs) across Alberta, and North America). Current guidelines and practices for opiate overdose interventions in EDs often require the administration of Naloxone. Naloxone administration is an important component in reversing opiate overdoses and saving lives, however, it often leads to patients being left in a state of withdrawal. This results in patients leaving the emergency room against medical advice in a state of withdrawal. Opiate withdrawal is a serious condition wherein patients may return to illicit opiate use to satisfy their cravings and manage withdrawals, often with negative outcomes.

Addressing opiate use disorder (OUD), often the root cause of opiate overdoses, requires a new approach to ED interventions. To ensure patients do not leave EDs in a state of withdrawal, which perpetuates their cycle of use, and increases the likelihood of repeat overdoses, the initiation of Buprenorphine post-Naloxone administration in EDs can have promising outcomes for patients. This case study for Buprenorphine initiation in an ED could lay the groundwork for an alternate protocol for ED physicians providing interventions for opiate overdoses.

KEYWORDS: buprenorphine, naloxone, opiate overdose, emergency department

Key Words

- Caring in Crisis
- Ethical issues
- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Opioids/Opiates
- Pharmacologic Interventions
- Stigma

- Substance Use Disorder (general)
- Treatment Models/Programs
- Virtual Care
- Withdrawal Management

Learning Objective # 1

Management of Patient post opioid overdose and in acute withdrawal

Learning Objective # 2

Macro dosing of suboxone

Reference # 1

Weiner SG, Hoppe JA. Prescribing Naloxone to High-Risk Patients in the Emergency Department: Is it Enough? *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2021 Jun;47(6):340-342. doi: 10.1016/j.jcjq.2021.03.012. Epub 2021 Apr 4. PMID: 33958290; PMCID: PMC8165019.

Reference # 2

Carpenter J, Murray BP, Atti S, Moran TP, Yancey A, Morgan B. Naloxone Dosing After Opioid Overdose in the Era of Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl. *J Med Toxicol.* 2020 Jan;16(1):41-48. doi: 10.1007/s13181-019-00735-w. Epub 2019 Aug 30. PMID: 31471760; PMCID: PMC6942078.

Lead Author

Dr. Imran Ghauri
Addiction Physician | AHS

Co-Author

Dr. Stryder Zobell
Addiction Physician | AHS