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| DYS Seal | **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** |
| ***Executive Office of Health and Human Services*** |
| **Department of Youth Services** |
| **Official Policy** |

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| ***Policy Name:*** | Availability of Naloxone in Response to Opioid Overdose | | |
| ***Policy #:*** | 02.05.09 | ***Effective Date:*** | January 1, 2017 |
| ***Repeals:*** | None | | |
| ***References:*** | Chapter 52 of the Acts of 2016  Massachusetts Department of Public Health Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Manual | | |
| ***Signature:*** | Peter J. Forbes, Commissioner | | 11 / 08 / 2016 |
| ***Applicability:*** | This policy shall apply to DYS employees and their contracted providers, interns and volunteers. | | |

Policy

It is the policy of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) that DYS shall provide Naloxone (also known as Narcan) Rescue Kits to DYS residential and community locations to be carried and used by any trained individual during a possible opioid overdose. DYS shall provide training on how to use Naloxone Rescue Kits and respond to a potential opioid overdose as provided in these procedures.

DYS shall provide assistance to youth and their families who request or are identified as needing such assistance on how to access Naloxone Rescue Kits and training resources to administer Naloxone.

No employee is required as part of their DYS responsibilities to carry with them and use a Naloxone Rescue Kit outside of DYS facilities or while using DYS state or provider vehicles. Any state or provider employee may carry and use the Naloxone Rescue Kit assigned to a location when transporting youth in the community in accordance with these procedures.

Procedure

1. Definitions
2. The following definitions shall have the meanings assigned to them in this policy for purposes of interpreting this policy.

Community Location: DYS District and Satellite locations or other similar community locations operated by contracted DYS providers.

MA Department of Public Health (DPH): Agency within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services with the mission to prevent illness, injury, and premature death, to assure access to high quality public health and health care services, and to promote wellness and health equity for all in the Commonwealth.

Naloxone (Narcan): A drug that acts to displace the opioid drug from receptors in the brain allowing slowed or absent breathing to resume. It is safe and effective and has no potential for abuse.

Naloxone Rescue Kit: Complete unit needed to administer Naloxone including the pre-filled vial and nasal atomizer.

Opioid Overdose: Concentrations of drugs so high that they depress respiration and cause unresponsiveness.

1. Terms that are defined Policy #01.01.04, “Policy Definitions” shall have the meanings assigned to them in that policy, unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended.
2. Terms not defined in Policy #01.01.04 or in this policy shall have the meanings assigned to them by reasonably accepted standard dictionary definitions of American English.
3. Availability and Storage of Naloxone
4. DYS Residential locations, including reception centers and alternative lock up programs, and community locations shall keep Naloxone Rescue Kits in a secure location where all trained staff can have access to it.
5. The residential unit condition report shall include a daily check of the Naloxone Rescue Kit to ensure it is not damaged, expired or missing.
6. The District Manager or designee of community locations shall conduct a weekly check of the Naloxone Rescue Kit to ensure it is not damaged, expired or missing.
7. Naloxone Rescue Kits shall be ordered through the state or provider fiscal unit for that location in accordance with any directives by the Director of Health Services.
8. Damaged or expired kits shall be disposed of through hazardous waste disposal.
9. Naloxone Rescue Kits should not be left in the following locations:
   1. Vehicles or outdoor locations that may reach high or low temperatures for extended periods of time as kits should remain at room temperature; or
   2. Unsecured areas where youth may have access.
10. Access to Naloxone Rescue Kits in the Community or During Transportation

1. Any employee who as part of their responsibilities transports DYS youth may carry with them and use a Naloxone Rescue Kit during such transportation of the youth using the kit assigned to that location. Such kit shall be signed out of the location by noting who is taking the kit in the operation’s log and returned to the same location upon returning with the youth and vehicle. If using the kit assigned to the community location, staff shall use a sign out log for this purpose.

2. Caseworkers shall refer youth or families that may need access to a Naloxone Rescue Kit to the appropriate services.

3. Apprehension Officers may be assigned their own Naloxone Rescue Kit to carry and use, and are responsible for ensuring safe storage and notifying their supervisor if a Kit is damaged, expired, or missing.

1. Training Requirements

1. All staff with direct care responsibilities for youth shall receive training on how to administer the Naloxone Rescue Kit.

2. F. Robert Brown Training Center shall provide training on how to respond to an opioid overdose to new employees in the DYS Basic Training through the Naloxone Responder module or other Basic Training module as determined by the Training Director and the Director of Substance Abuse or designee.

3. Provider staff that do not use DYS Training shall receive training through their DYS health services provider in their region.

4. Staff shall receive a refresher course on Naloxone administration every two years.

1. Documentation on Use of Naloxone Rescue Kit

1. Use of a Naloxone Rescue Kit shall be documented as a serious incident in accordance with the serious incident policy.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

1. All locations shall have a functioning Naloxone Rescue Kit.
2. DYS Substance Abuse Director shall report annually the number of events that resulted in use of a Naloxone at a DYS location or involving DYS youth.
3. Location Managers shall ensure their employees receive training on administration of Naloxone Rescue Kits.