



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 175 - ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2025-51  
**ISSUED:** October 27, 2025

**EFFECTIVE:** October 27, 2025

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**  
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow  
**DATE:** September 24, 2025

**ACTION:** Amends General Order 2022-03 (January 21, 2022)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** NONE

#### **175.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to guide members in the administration of Naloxone, which is a medication used to counter the effects of opiate and opioid overdoses.

#### **175.05 POLICY**

The department will regularly train its members in the proper administration of Naloxone.

- A. Members below the rank of captain shall be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the administration of Naloxone to a person suspected of experiencing an opioid overdose in accordance with Wisconsin state statutes, Milwaukee Police Department policy, and Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) guidelines.
- B. Members shall preserve evidence for any resulting criminal or non-criminal investigation.

**Note:** According to [Wis. Stat. § 256.40\(3\)\(b\)](#), a law enforcement officer or fire fighter who, reasonably believing another person to be undergoing an opioid-related drug overdose, administers naloxone or another opioid antagonist to that person shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for any outcomes resulting from the administration of the opioid antagonist to that person, if the law enforcement officer or fire fighter is acting pursuant to an agreement and any training obtained under [Wis. Stat. § 256.40\(3\)\(a\)](#).

#### **175.10 DEFINITIONS**

##### **A. OPIATE/OPIOID**

Opiates and opioids (hereinafter referred to as “opioids”) are drugs that are derived from opium or its derivatives, or other classes of drugs that mimic opium derivatives. Legally administered opioids, such as morphine, methadone, oxycodone, and hydrocodone, are narcotics most often used to treat pain and opioid addiction. Some commonly encountered opioid trade names include Methadone, Demerol, Vicodin, OxyContin, Percocet, and Percodan. Overdoses of opioids and illicit street drugs, such as heroin, can result in severe depression of central nervous system activity and lead to death.

**B. OPIOID OVERDOSE**

According to [Wis. Stat. § 256.40\(1\)\(d\)](#), an opioid-related drug overdose is “a condition including extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, or the ceasing of respiratory or circulatory function resulting from the consumption or use of an opioid, or another substance with which an opioid was combined.”

**C. NALOXONE**

A medication that acts as an opioid antagonist and counters the effects of opioid overdoses. It is marketed under the trade name Narcan.

**175.15 NALOXONE COORDINATOR**

- A. The director of the Training Division, or a designee, shall be the Naloxone coordinator. The Naloxone coordinator shall schedule biennial training to coincide with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training.
- B. The Naloxone coordinator shall notify Milwaukee County EMS or the department's medical officer within one week of the administration of Naloxone.
- C. The Naloxone coordinator shall review *Sick and Injured* or *Sudden Death* reports filed in the Records Management System (RMS) related to the administration of Naloxone.
- D. The Naloxone coordinator is responsible for maintaining an adequate inventory of the drug at the Training Division. Upon receiving information from a work location supervisor indicating that Naloxone has been deployed or a kit has been damaged, the Naloxone coordinator shall provide replacement items as necessary to maintain an adequate supply in the field. The coordinator shall cause regular inspections to be conducted to monitor expiration dates and compliance with sign-out and storage procedures.

**175.20 PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTERING NALOXONE**

- A. Members shall assess available indicators of a potential opioid overdose, including but not limited to, statements by persons with recent knowledge of the victim's habits and activities, previous knowledge of opioid use or abuse, and the presence of drugs, medicine containers, or drug paraphernalia.
- B. Members trained in CPR and the administration of Naloxone shall assess potential overdose victims to determine if they are in respiratory/circulatory distress related to opioid use, and should administer Naloxone if they reasonably believe a person to be undergoing an opioid overdose. Respiratory/circulatory distress is characterized by the presence of one or more of the following: shallow, ineffective, or labored breathing, blue or purple (cyanotic) skin coloration, and faint, ineffective, or absent pulse.
- C. Members believing that a person is undergoing an opioid overdose shall use universal precautions to protect themselves from pathogens and communicable diseases. Applicable precautions include:

1. Wearing gloves to prevent contact with bodily fluids or potentially contaminated items.
  2. Using barrier protection, such as the issued CPR mask, to prevent contact with mucous membranes and bodily fluids.
  3. Using caution when handling needles and sharp instruments.
  4. Washing hands immediately after gloves are removed.
  5. Thoroughly and immediately washing skin if contaminated with bodily fluids or other potentially harmful materials.
  6. Contacting a supervisor and seeking medical care upon experiencing a significant exposure to bodily fluids or other potentially harmful substances.
- D. Members administering Naloxone shall respond by completing the following steps:
1. Identify Opioid Overdose and Check for Response
    - a. Ask person if he or she is okay and shout name (if known).
    - b. If the person does not respond, shake shoulders and firmly rub the middle of their chest or as alternative use peripheral pain stimulus (preferred method) by applying firm pressure to trapezius muscle, nail bed, or earlobe.
    - c. Check for signs of opioid overdose:
      1. Will not wake up or respond to voice or touch.
      2. Breathing is very slow, irregular, or has stopped.
      3. Center part of their eye is very small, sometimes called "pinpoint pupils."
    - d. Lay the person on their back to receive a dose of Narcan nasal spray.
  2. Give Narcan Nasal Spray
    - a. Remove Naloxone nasal spray from the box. Peel back the tab with the circle to open the Narcan nasal spray.
    - b. Hold the Narcan nasal spray with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle.
    - c. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into either nostril. Tilt the person's head back and provide support under the neck with your hand. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril, until your fingers on either side of the nozzle are against the bottom of the person's nose.
    - d. Press the plunger firmly to give the dose of Narcan nasal spray. Remove the

Narcan nasal spray from the nostril after giving the dose.

3. Call for Emergency Medical Help, Evaluate, and Support
  - a. Members administering the Narcan nasal spray shall immediately notify the dispatcher and request medical assistance.
  - b. Watch the person closely.
    1. If the person has responded / begun breathing, move the person on their side (recovery position) after giving Narcan nasal spray.
    2. If the individual is not breathing and does not respond by waking up, to voice or touch, assess for a pulse. If no pulse is detected, perform chest compressions and rescue breaths in accordance with American Heart Association guidelines.
  - c. If there is no change in responsiveness and breathing, another dose may be given. Narcan nasal spray may be dosed every two (2) to three (3) minutes, if available.
- E. Upon the arrival of other EMS personnel (e.g., emergency medical technician, paramedic), members shall immediately report that they have administered Naloxone, the approximate time of dosage, and the number of doses administered.
- F. If Naloxone is administered to a prisoner, members shall have the prisoner medically cleared at a hospital prior to transport to a temporary holding facility, the Criminal Justice Facility (CJF), or Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF).
- G. Used naloxone kits are considered hazardous materials and should be disposed of in hazardous materials containers, which can be found in ambulances and medical facilities.

#### **175.25 DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING**

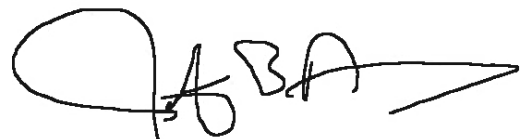
- A. Members shall notify a supervisor as soon as practicable that they have administered Naloxone and a supervisor shall respond to the scene.
- B. A supervisor responding to a scene in which Naloxone was administered shall file a *Naloxone Administration* report in the personnel management software prior to the end of his or her shift to notify the Naloxone coordinator that a unit or units have been deployed. The *Naloxone Administration* report shall be submitted directly to the training director at the Training Division, or designee, by the supervisor completing the report.
- C. Department members shall file a *Sick and Injured* or *Sudden Death* report in RMS when they administer Naloxone. Members shall document the nature of the incident, the use of Naloxone, and their observations of the sick/injured person before and after the administration of the drug. Members shall also complete the *Law Enforcement Report to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program* form in accordance with SOP 172 Sick and Injured Persons.

- D. After the administration of Naloxone to an individual undergoing an opioid overdose, members shall assess the need to take the person into protective custody. If the established criteria for an emergency detention are evident, pursuant to [Wis. Stat. § 51.15\(1\)](#) and SOP 160.15, members shall complete emergency detention procedures and have the subject medically cleared at a hospital prior to transportation to another facility. Nothing in this policy is intended to alter or supersede any procedures established in SOP 160.15, Persons with Mental Illness, Legal Standards for Emergency Detention.

### **175.30 STORAGE, MAINTENANCE, AND REPLACEMENT**

Naloxone is perishable and, therefore, must be stored properly to maintain its effectiveness.

- A. Naloxone kits shall be stored in suitable locations as determined by commanding officers. The drug must maintain a consistent temperature when not in use, between 59 – 77 degrees Fahrenheit, and unboxed vials cannot be stored in direct light.
- B. Both the supervisor and the member receiving the kit shall properly complete the *Naloxone Tracking Sheet* (form PN-27). Naloxone kits shall be returned to a supervisor, who shall indicate on the tracking sheet that the medication has been returned.
- C. Members shall notify a supervisor of any damaged Naloxone kits that are rendered unusable. Supervisors shall document and photograph the damaged units, and forward a *Department Memorandum* (form PM-9E) through their chain of command with photographs to the Naloxone coordinator. Work locations can properly dispose of damaged Naloxone kits in hazardous materials containers, which can be found in ambulances and medical facilities.



JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

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