Recognizing an Opioid Overdose

The symptoms of an overdose differ from those of someone who is only under the influence.

- Awake but unable to talk
- Body is limp
- Face is pale or clammy
- Fingernails or lips turn blue or purple
- Breathing is shallow or has stopped
- Choking sounds
- Vomiting
- Loss of consciousness
- Unresponsive to outside stimulus

If you notice any of these signs, it is important that you do not leave the person alone. Individuals who survive an overdose do so because someone was there to respond.

Naloxone Administration

Quick Steps

The first few moments after an overdose occurs are vital in preserving life. Remember these five quick steps if you encounter an overdose:

1. Assess for OD, Attempt to arouse
2. Call 911 for help
3. Perform rescue breathing
4. Administer Naloxone
5. Stay with person & attempt to connect to treatment options
What is the DOPPP?
Legislation passed (HB1) in 2015 enabling non-medical persons to administer Naloxone to persons experiencing an opioid overdose. The law permits trained personnel to obtain, possess, and administer naloxone to any person who appears to be suffering an opioid-related overdose. In addition, these personnel are protected from civil liability for administering naloxone.

As a response to HB1, now PA 099-0480, and to meet the needs of increased accessibility, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) established the Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP).

DOPP develops guidelines and registers individual agencies and municipalities to administer naloxone and keeps track of naloxone reversals of trained first responders, bystanders, family and friends who have administered naloxone and have saved lives.

Who Can Register?
- DASA Treatment Programs
- Licensed prescribing practitioners
- For and not-for profit community-based organizations
- Hospitals
- Local health departments
- Urgent care facilities
- Faith-based organizations

How do I register?

Email:
DHS.DOPP.coordinator@illinois.gov for guidelines to implement your program.

Benefits of Registering
- Be part of the effort to reduce opioid deaths in Illinois.
- Gain access to innovative training.
- Stay informed about the most current legislation.
- Inform your community about naloxone and help save lives!

Drug Poisoning Deaths between 2013-2015:
- 3,614 were due to opioids
- 2,113 were due to heroin
- 1,344 were due to prescription opioids

*IDPH 2017

What is Naloxone?
Naloxone is an easy-to-use, life-saving medication that is available for purchase through pharmacies and authorized distributors. It can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose when delivered in a timely manner. Naloxone works by preventing opioids from attaching to the brain. Naloxone can be administered by injection or sprayed into the nose. It can begin working within minutes to restore breathing, consciousness, and save a life.