NALOXONE (Narcan)

1.0 Classification
   - Opioid receptor antagonist

2.0 Mechanism of Action
   - Reverses the effects of narcotics, including respiratory depression, by competitively binding to opiate receptors

3.0 Indications
   - Narcotic overdose with respiratory/airway compromise despite BLS airway management

4.0 Contraindications
   - Cardiac arrest

5.0 Precautions
   - Naloxone can cause withdrawal symptoms including combative behaviour in patients with long-standing narcotic use
   - Naloxone should be administered slowly and titrated to effect

6.0 Route
   - May be given IV, IM, SC, or IN

7.0 Dosage
   - Adult
     - 0.4 mg (IV, SC, IM, IN); repeat as needed.
   - Pediatric
     - 0.2 mg (IV, SC, IM, IN); repeat as needed

8.0 Supplied
   - 0.4 mg in 1 mL vial

9.0 May Be Given By
   - ICP (with OLMC order)/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects
    - Agitation
    - Vomiting
    - Cramps
    - Diarrhea

11.0 Special notes
    - The half-life of naloxone is shorter than most narcotics, therefore the patient may return to the overdose state and may require further dosing of naloxone; non-transport risk is very high after administration of naloxone
    - If no correction in airway or ventilation after multiple doses, consider differentials
- Naloxone is effective against natural, synthetic, or semi-synthetic narcotics including:
  - Codeine
  - Darvon (propoxyphene)
  - Demerol (meperidine)
  - Dilaudid (hydromorphone)
  - Fentanyl
  - Heroin
  - Lotomil
  - Methadone
  - Morphine
  - Nubain (nalbuphine)
  - Oxycodone
  - Paregoric (anhydrous morphine)
  - Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen)
  - Percodan (oxycodone and ASA)
  - Stadol (butorphanol)
  - Talwin (pentazocine)
- Pregnancy category C [if the patient will benefit from a Category C drug, it is generally used]

12.0 References
- Altered Level of Consciousness Clinical Practice Guideline
- Toxicological Emergencies Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed
Copyright © Emergency Health Services