Community Based Naloxone Provincial Program Evaluation

March 10, 2020

What's this project about?

Canada is experiencing a significant and devastating overdose crisis. Opioid related deaths doubled each year from 2011 through 2015, and from 2016 through the third quarter of 2018, they continued to increase. In 2018, there were an average of two deaths a day. One effective, evidence-based intervention to reduce deaths is Community Based Naloxone (CBN) kits. This is the provision of the opioid antidote naloxone, equipment for its administration, and training in recognizing and responding to an opioid overdose to those at risk of experiencing or witnessing an overdose. Alberta Health Services (AHS) manages the provincial CBN program and kits are distributed to the public from many locations across the province including community pharmacies, harm reduction community organizations, and AHS treatment facilities. The Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network (AMH SCN™) leads the evaluation of the CBN program with the objective of demonstrating and improving effectiveness and efficiency.

How will we do this?

We lead an evaluation working group with membership from all partners involved in the CBN program. The evaluation has included surveys, interviews, and data analysis. We are also documenting program implementation throughout Alberta and determining its reach.

Where are we now?

We have evaluated distribution of CBN kits from Emergency Departments (EDs)/Urgent Care Centres (UCCs) in Alberta, supported improvements in distribution from EDs/UCCs, and measured the changes - with a final report completed. There has also been qualitative research into how well the program is working within the Alberta community harm reduction partners and a quantitative analysis of reversal reports.

Who is involved?

The internal AHS partners for this project include: the AMH provincial team and the Harm Reduction team (under PPIH SCN). It also includes many external partners, including: Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH); the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB); Alberta College of Pharmacists; Alberta Health; and the University of Alberta.

For more information on this project, please contact the Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network™: addictionmentalhealth.scn@ahs.ca

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