



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

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For Information of staff and medical staff in:

- Emergency Departments
- EMS
- Addiction & Mental Health Services
- Health Link
- Critical Care

For content questions contact:

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Identifying & Responding to Poisoning from illegally manufactured Non-Pharmaceutical Fentanyl

There has been an increase in poisoning and death due to street drug use of illegally manufactured Non-Pharmaceutical Fentanyl (NPF)

- There is an increased risk of patients presenting to EMS and/or Emergency Departments following ingestion of NPF
- Early signs of NPF overdose include respiratory depression; cold, clammy skin; altered level of consciousness, constricted pupils, and unresponsiveness to pain
- NPF is considerably more toxic than other opioids and even in small quantities it can be particularly harmful to opioid-naïve users
- Individuals may not know that they have consumed NPF when they have taken along with oxycodone or heroin
- Note that NPF products are often green in color, whereas pharmaceutical oxycodone tablets are usually white



See picture for NPF example. Common slang terms for these non-healthcare acquired products include “greenies”, “green beans”, “green apples” or “oxy”

Action

- Immediate use of Naloxone can reverse the effects of NPF.
- Naloxone can be given Intravenously, Intramuscularly, Intra Nasally, or Subcutaneously
- An initial dose of 0.4 mg to 2 mg of Naloxone can be given and if no response observed within 2-3 minutes, additional doses to a maximum of 10mg can be administered
- EMS should follow existing protocols and access OLMC for additional orders
- Respiratory support may be required
- Keep in mind that the half-life of Naloxone is shorter than that of Fentanyl and other opioids; therefore observation for at least 6 hours after the last dose of Naloxone is required
- **Call PADIS (Poison and Drug Information Service) at 1-800-332-1414 (option 1) for Naloxone dosing questions. Available 24/7**