

5330.04 ADMINISTERING AN OPIOID ANTIDOTE

Background and Authority

The New Jersey “Overdose Prevention Act,” P.L. 2013, c. 46 (the “Act”), encourages the wider prescription and distribution of an opioid antidote to prevent opioid overdose. The Act also expresses the finding of the New Jersey Legislature that such antidote, naloxone hydrochloride, is an inexpensive and easily administered antidote to potentially save lives in the event of an opioid overdose. The New Jersey Department of Education has informed school districts that they may develop and adopt policies and procedures to maintain and administer an opioid antidote to any student, school personnel, or other person believed to be experiencing an opioid overdose during school hours or during on-site school-sponsored activities to block the opioid’s life-threatening effects.

The Act also provides immunity from civil and criminal liability to non-health care professionals who have, in an emergency, administered an opioid antidote (naloxone hydrochloride) to a person whom he/she believes, in good faith, is experiencing an opioid overdose, provided the requirements of the Act have been met. The Act also provides that a health care professional or pharmacist who, acting in good faith, prescribes or dispenses an opioid antidote to a person capable, in the judgment of a healthcare professional, of administering the opioid antidote in an emergency, shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability, or to professional disciplinary action, for prescribing or dispensing an opioid antidote in accordance with the Act.

Standing Order of School Physician for Opioid Antidote

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4.a.(1)(a) and a.(1)(e), the Collingswood School District School Physician, as a health care practitioner as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:6J-3, may prescribe or dispense an opioid antidote directly or through a standing order to the school district for a school district certified school nurse to administer to overdose victims, provided the School Physician deems a school district certified school nurse is capable of administering the opioid antidote to an overdose victim in an emergency.

The School Physician’s standing order must specify, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) That the certified school nurse(s) are authorized to directly administer the opioid antidote to overdose victims in the event of an emergency; and



- (2) Whether the School Physician finds that the certified school nurse(s) may also dispense or grant access, in emergency situations, to other persons employed by the District who have certified to having received training in the administration of the opioid antidote and to receipt of overdose prevention information pursuant to N.J.S.A. 24:6J-5.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-5.a.(1), the School Physician issuing the standing order shall ensure that overdose prevention information is provided to the school district and the certified school nurse(s) authorized to administer an opioid antidote.

If authorized by the standing order of the School Physician, the certified school nurse shall also ensure that staff members employed by the district, who have volunteered to administer the opioid antidote in the event of an emergency where the school nurse is unavailable, shall be trained for the administration of the same through a program endorsed by the New Jersey Department of Human Services and shall receive such overdose prevention information. If the standing order of the School Physician authorizes the opioid antidote to be dispensed to or accessible to such other staff members, each such staff member shall sign and provide to the school nurse a certification affirming that the staff member has received such training and received the overdose prevention information provided to the school district. A list of all district staff members who have certified to having received such information and training, and who are authorized to administer an opioid antidote in cases of emergency where the school nurse is not present, shall be maintained in the nurse's office of each school building and distributed to all school staff at the start of each school year.

The overdose prevention information shall include, but not be limited to: information on opioid overdose prevention and recognition; instructions on how to perform rescue breathing and resuscitation; information on opioid antidote dosage and instructions on opioid antidote administration; information describing the importance of calling 911 emergency telephone service for assistance with an opioid overdose; and instructions for appropriate care of an overdose victim after administration of the opioid antidote.

Procedure for Emergency Opioid Overdose and Administration of Antidote

The Principal of each school building shall ensure that all building staff are familiar with the following procedure, which shall be followed in cases of possible opioid overdose during school hours or during an on-site school sponsored activity:



- (1) Upon receiving a report of a possible opioid overdose, the Principal, Principal's designee, or supervising staff member will immediately call 911.
- (2) The school nurse, during school hours and if available at an on-site school-sponsored activity, will also be immediately called.
- (3) If the school nurse is available in the building or on-site, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-5d.(1), the school nurse may administer the opioid antidote to a student, school personnel, or other person in an emergency if he or she believes, in good faith, that a person is experiencing an opioid overdose.
- (4) If the school nurse is not in the building or not readily available on-site, and another staff member is present who is on the list of employees that have certified to having received training and the overdose prevention information, and is thereby authorized to administer the opioid antidote (if permitted by the school physician's standing order), in accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-5.d.(1), such staff member may administer the opioid antidote in an emergency if he or she believes, in good faith, that a person is experiencing an opioid overdose.
- (5) The school nurse and/or other school staff members shall keep the student, school personnel, or other person comfortable until emergency medical responders arrive on the scene.
- (6) Any student who receives an opioid antidote by the school nurse or by an emergency medical responder shall be transported to the nearest hospital with a school staff member designated by the Principal, Principal's designee, or supervising staff member.
- (7) The Principal, Principal's designee, or supervising staff member will notify the parent or legal guardian of any student, or a family member or other contact person for any school staff member, who may be experiencing a possible opioid overdose, as soon as practicable.
- (8) The Principal, Principal's designee, or supervising staff member of the on-site school-sponsored activity shall notify the Superintendent of Schools of an opioid overdose and whenever an opioid antidote is administered by a school nurse, other staff member, or emergency medical responder.



Nothing in this Policy shall prohibit the administration of an opioid antidote to a student, school personnel, or other person in an emergency during school hours or during on-site school-sponsored activities by an emergency medical responder or other person authorized by law to administer an opioid antidote in accordance with N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq.

Documentation of Administration of Opioid Antidote

The school nurse shall document any administration of an opioid antidote on a student's health record in the same manner as for the administration of other medications under a non-patient specific order. Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to modify the obligations of the district with respect to the confidentiality of student records, in accordance applicable statutes, regulations, and other Board policies/regulations pertaining thereto.

Protection from Criminal and Civil Liability

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 24:6J-4.d.(2), the school district, the school nurse, or other authorized person administering an opioid antidote shall not, as a result of any acts or omissions, be subject to any criminal or civil liability for administering an opioid antidote in good faith in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq. or under this policy.

Storage and Disposal of Opioid Antidote

The school nurse shall be responsible to store the opioid antidote that has been prescribed by the school physician in a safe and secure location. Such medication shall be stored according to the manufacturer's directions regarding the heat and cold sensitivity of the medication. To the extent it is safe, the naloxone shall be stored within reasonable proximity to an automated external defibrillator (AED). The school nurse shall establish protocols to ensure monitoring of the on-site inventory and replacement of the opioid antidote supply. The school nurse shall also plan for and implement the disposal of any administered and/or expired opioid antidote applicator.

Construction and Interaction with other Applicable Statutes, Regulations, Policies

Any student or staff member found to be under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance shall be subject to the provisions of all applicable statutes, administrative codes, and Board policies and regulations regarding substance use. For students under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance, this shall include, but not limited to, referral for intervention, prevention, and evaluation, and treatment, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1 and all applicable Board policies and regulations.



Nothing in this policy shall be construed to modify or affect the ability of the Board or district administration to take any and all appropriate administrative and/or disciplinary action towards any staff member found to be under the influence of controlled dangerous substances after an emergency created by an opioid overdose has ended.

Adoption, Revision, Notice/Availability to Parents, Students and Staff

Written notification of this Policy shall be distributed annually to all parents, guardians, and adult students, which shall include notification that the Board authorizes the certified school nurse to administer an opioid antidote in emergency circumstances. If applicable and permitted by the standing order of the school physician, the notification shall also inform parents, guardians, and adult students that other volunteer, unlicensed school personnel who have been appropriately trained through a Department of Human Services endorsed program and received overdose prevention information, may also administer an opioid antidote in emergency circumstances where the school nurse is not present. The written notification shall provide a means for the parent, guardian, or adult student to provide written refusal for the emergency administration of an opioid antidote by school personnel.

This Policy shall be reviewed and approved by the School Physician and Board attorney prior to its adoption and any subsequent revision. This Policy shall be made available to all school staff members, parents, and students, and also made available in staff and student handbooks, on the district's website, or through any other appropriate means.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 24:6J-1 et seq. ("Overdose Prevention Act")

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1 to 2.4

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.1 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.1 et seq.

New Jersey Department of Education Memorandum – "Information for Schools Regarding Opioid Overdose Prevention" (May 24, 2016)

Adopted: 21 March 2017

