

Naloxone

Policy Statement

The opioid epidemic has increased the likelihood that first responders will encounter overdose victims or become victims themselves through accidental exposure to certain dangerously potent opioid drugs. An opioid overdose may be reversed in minutes if first responders are equipped with naloxone, more commonly known by the brand name Narcan®.

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office will seek to make naloxone accessible to its first responders.

Persons Affected

- All corrections, law enforcement and reserve deputy sheriffs
- Records Division

Definitions

Naloxone – a type of drug used to reverse an opioid overdose that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or inhibits the effects of opioids acting on those receptors

Authority

Sheriff's Office deputies possess, store, distribute, and administer naloxone in accordance with a physician's [standing order](#) as permitted by [RCW 69.41.095](#).

Acquisition, Distribution and Replacement

Corrections

Nurses with the Jail Health Program obtain and stock naloxone in various locations in Whatcom County Sheriff's Office corrections facilities. This naloxone should be accessible to corrections deputies.

Law Enforcement

The chief inspector will ensure the establishment and maintenance of processes to acquire, distribute, store and replace (expiring or used) naloxone for law enforcement personnel. Such processes should be tracked in appropriate systems.

Training

All corrections, law enforcement and reserve deputies should complete approved training on the administration of naloxone to victims of suspected opioid overdose.

The chief inspector will oversee the development and maintenance of an appropriate training course that should include:

- Signs of opioid overdose

- Dangers of exposure to high-potency opioids (e.g., fentanyl)
- Potential of first responders to save lives with the timely administration of naloxone
- Naloxone administration techniques and follow-up care

Administration (Use)

Deputies should follow the [Naloxone Use Protocol](#) when administering naloxone.

Medical Attention

Deputies shall promptly obtain medical attention for any person to whom they have administered naloxone. Deputies should request such medical attention from one or more of the following:

- Medical first responders (e.g., fire personnel)
- Paramedics
- Hospital staff
- Medical staff at a corrections facility

Reports

Each time they administer naloxone, deputies should document the circumstances surrounding its use in a Sheriff's Office written report.

The records manager will ensure that a copy of each report describing a use of naloxone by a Sheriff's Office employee is routed to the sheriff.