



Operations Bulletin **Naloxone Use**

December 18, 2020

Station Leaders and Members,

RCMSAR HQ has revised **OPS 110 – Medication Administration Restrictions** policy, which restricts the transport or dispensing of medications by RCMSAR members. The new policy (can be found on SMS and is at the end of this document allows for one exception, the transport and administration of *Naloxone*, which can be administered by members trained to do so in an overdose situation.

The on-going opioid overdose crisis across British Columbia can affect every community and demographic. Public service harm reduction support activities aim to keep people safe and minimize death which includes the administration of *Naloxone* during an overdose when required.

As a first response agency that provides first aid support during taskings, RCMSAR recognizes that members who are trained and equipped to administer *Naloxone* may save lives, and therefore is approving *Naloxone* use for those stations and members that wish to provide this harm reduction support. Please note, this initiative is geared towards those members that wish to pursue the harm reduction support and is NOT a requirement.

In order to be approved to carry and deliver *Naloxone* the following must be done:

- RCMSAR members that wish to be eligible to administer *Naloxone* must take the 10-15-minute online Naloxone Administration training provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC - <https://towardtheheart.com/naloxone-course>). This training does not expire and **must** be taken before any naloxone is embarked on any RCMSAR vessel.
- Naloxone Kit(s) is sourced/obtained
- Vessel/station must have a Sharps Bin readily available for the safe and proper disposal of all used *Naloxone* supplies.

Once a member has taken the training, free *Naloxone* kits can be obtained for individual availability or as part of the vessel first aid/equipment supply at a local pharmacy, hospital, or community agency. A *Naloxone* kit can also be sourced through the interactive map: <https://towardtheheart.com/site-finder>.




Additional Information:

- Training is FREE
- *Naloxone* kits are available free of charge through various pharmacies, hospitals, or community health offices. Some suppliers may ask for proof of training. The following *Naloxone* training site (<http://www.naloxonetraining.com/>) is also acceptable (although not as informative) but does allow for the printing of a training certificate (i.e. proof of training).
- You may be asked when requesting a *Naloxone* kit if it is for personal use or work. Please state that it is for personal use as you may be charged for the kit otherwise (can be up to \$50).
- *Naloxone* Spray or Nasal *Naloxone* dispensers are available however, they are not part of the free supply of the medication and can cost up to \$150 per dosage. This delivery mechanism may be considered safer, particularly on a moving vessel, but it is not considered as effective or long lasting and may therefore require more doses. If the *Naloxone* spray is preferred, the cost must be borne by the member or station.
- RCMSAR will not reimburse for any *Naloxone* kits.
- *Naloxone* kits have an expiry date on them and are considered good for two years from that date. Even if a kit has expired and that is the only *Naloxone* available it is recommended to still use it for an overdose situation.
- A member **must** upload their training certification under Naloxone Training in SMS.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Director of Readiness.

Ralph Mohrmann
Director of Readiness
RCMSAR



 ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE SEARCH & RESCUE <i>Saving Lives on the Water</i>	POLICY	
	OPS-110 Medication Administration Restrictions	
	Original Date	Revision Date
	February 21, 2015	December 1, 2020

Policy

Medications will not be carried on RCMSAR vessels for the purpose of administration to any person.

The one exception to that policy is Naloxone. Naloxone may be carried on RCMSAR vessels and be administered by members who are trained to do so.

If personal medication is carried by a patient, RCMSAR members may assist in the administration of that medication only if the administration of that medication is covered within the scope of practice of a member's first aid level.

Reason for Policy

RCMSAR does not have the authority to provide medical oversight to administer medication to patients.

Life-saving efforts may be achieved however if a member has the appropriate training and scope of practice to administer a patient's medication or Naloxone.

Definitions

Over-the-Counter Medicine – Any medicine that one can purchase without a prescription. (e.g. Tylenol, Advil, topical anesthetics, etc.)

Naloxone Kit – Distributed by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), each kit contains three doses of Naloxone, three safety needles, three alcohol prep pads, a plastic facemask, and instructions on use.



Sharps Bin-a container with a one-way door, marked as a bio-hazard container, which is used to dispose of sharp, contaminated, used or soiled first aid items such as a syringe

Guidelines

1. Over-the-Counter medicine is considered medication and therefore, will not be carried aboard RCMSAR Vessels.
2. If a member with an appropriate level of first aid assists with the administration of a patients 'medication, the dose, type of medication and time of administration must be recorded and communicated to the next level of care.
3. Naloxone is a medication and is the only exception to Policy Ops-110 Medication Administration Restrictions that can be administered by a member who has completed the BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the disposal of sharps training.
4. Vessels equipped with Naloxone must also be equipped with a Sharps Bin.
5. No other medication shall be carried on RCMSAR vessels for the purposes of administration to patients.
6. All member's have the responsibility to know their scope of practice corresponding to their level of first aid.
7. RCMSAR will not be liable for the administration of medication by members that do not comply with this policy.