



Emergency Response to Opioid Drug Overdose

Purpose

Mitchell College wishes to prevent opiate-related overdose deaths by providing Emergency Medical Response (911) efficiently when identifying opiate-related overdose on campus. Naloxone, commonly known as Narcan, is a medication found to reverse the effects of opiate-related drug overdose. Naloxone is ***“NOT”*** carried by Mitchell College personnel or stored on campus. Consistent with Connecticut law, Mitchell College wishes as part of the Emergency Medical Response Plan policy and procedure to respond and identify suspected drug overdose occurring on campus. The Mitchell College Campus Safety Department shall establish procedures for campus safety officers, faculty and students to:

1. Identify the symptoms of a person suffering from an opioid overdose; and
2. To call 911 for an Emergency Medical Response immediately

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Mitchell College Campus Safety to provide assistance to any person(s) who may be suffering from an opioid overdose. Officers may administer lifesaving medical intervention (i.e. first aide, CPR and AED) until EMS personnel arrive on scene. When an on-duty campus safety officer is dispatched to any call that relates to a drug overdose, the responding officer shall:

1. Identify signs of an opioid overdose may include the below, but not all these signs may be present during an overdose.
 - Blue or purple fingernails and lips
 - Unresponsive to voice or touch
 - Pinpoint pupils (center part of eye is very small)
 - Slow, irregular, or stopped breathing
 - Slow heartbeat or low blood pressure
 - Pale, clammy skin
2. If you suspect an opioid overdose, call 911 and get emergency medical assistance right away.
3. Provide immediate assistance
4. Provide treatment commensurate with his/her responder training;
5. Assist other EMS personnel on scene; and
6. Handle any criminal investigation that may arise.

Mitchell College Campus Safety shall train all campus safety officers, faculty and students in the identification of the signs of Opioid Overdose. Training will be provided by Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) certified instructors. Mitchell College Campus Safety shall establish and maintain a professional affiliation with Mitchell College Health and Wellness Center/Yale New Haven Medical Group who shall provide medical oversight in training. The Program Medical Advisor shall be licensed to practice medicine within the State of Connecticut and may make recommendations regarding the policy, oversight, and administration of the Mitchell College Campus Safety medical response to opioid overdose. Information for all students, faculty and staff regarding opioid-drug overdose will be located on the Mitchell College Campus Safety website.

Definitions:

Drug Intoxication - impaired mental or physical functioning as a result of the use of physiological and/or psychoactive substances, i.e.: euphoria, dysphoria, apathy, sedation, attention impairment.

EMS - “Emergency Medical Services” that provide pre-hospital emergency medical care; such practitioners provide out of hospital care for those with illnesses or injury.

Opioid Overdose - an acute condition including, but not limited to, extreme physical illness, decreased level of consciousness, respiratory depression, coma, or death resulting from the consumption or use of an opiate, or another substance with which an opiate was combined, or that a layperson could reasonably believe to be an opiate-related drug overdose that requires medical assistance.

Patient - a person who may be experiencing an opioid overdose.

Universal Precautions- an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human body fluids as if they were known to be infection for HIV, HBV and other blood borne pathogens.

- First Aide shall be administered utilizing universal precautions.

Procedures:

Responding to Opioid –Drug Overdose

- A. When a Campus Safety Officer has arrived on scene or is dispatched to a medical emergency prior to the arrival of EMS, and has made a determination that a person is suffering from a possible opioid overdose, the following steps should be taken:
 1. The Campus Safety Officer should contact the dispatcher to advise of possible opioid overdose and request EMS response. Dispatch personnel shall then contact the appropriate EMS personnel.

2. The Campus Safety Officer shall use universal precautions and protection from blood borne pathogens and communicable diseases when providing first aide.
3. The Campus Safety Officer on scene shall ensure the victim is in a safe location and remove any object(s) from the patient's immediate reach that could be used as a dangerous instrument(s).
4. The officer shall assess the patient's Airway, Breathing, and Circulation, and provide medical care commensurate with the officer's training. The officer shall determine the victim's responsiveness, identify symptoms of opioid overdose.
5. The on scene Campus Safety Officer shall inform EMS about the treatment and condition of the victim, and shall not relinquish care of the victim until relieved by a person with an equal or higher level of training.
6. After clearing the call, the Campus Safety Officer will complete an Incident Report.

Narcotics and Drug Paraphernalia

- A. The officer shall seize any illegal and/or non-prescribed narcotics, including drug paraphernalia that is found on the victim, or in the immediate area, and process the evidence.
- B. In accordance with C.G.S. §§ 21a-279, a police officer cannot charge a victim with possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia based solely on discovery of evidence resulting from medical assistance for a drug overdose. Connecticut General Statutes do not bar prosecution for possession of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia with intent to sell or dispense.
- C. C.G.S. §§ 21a-279 and 21a-267 prohibit prosecuting any person who seeks or receives medical assistance in "good faith" under the following scenarios: when a person seeks assistance for someone else based on a reasonable belief that the person needs medical attention for himself/herself, when a person seeks medical attention based on a reasonable belief that he or she is experiencing an overdose, or when another person reasonably believes that he or she needs medical attention.
 1. "Good faith" does not include seeking medical assistance while law enforcement officers are executing an arrest or search warrant or conducting a lawful search.

Training:

- A. Campus Safety Officers will be given an Annual Training on Opioid Drug Overdose and Emergency Response.

Per the order of: *Erik M. Costa*

Director of Campus Safety

Date: 12/31/2019

