

# Fentanyl 101 and NARCAN

Courtesy of PORCH Project, Providing Overdose Reversal to give Columbus Hope

# Front PORCH Pre-test

- Please take the Pre-test before viewing this presentation. If you already have, please proceed.

# Fentanyl 101 for Law Enforcement

- We've heard the news stories about police officers getting accidentally exposed to harmful substances, including synthetic opioids like carfentanyl and fentanyl. For example in 2022, 7 first responders called to a crash (2 officers and 5 EMS crew members) were hospitalized in Gilmer County after being exposed to a mystery substance which tested positive for fentanyl.
- In another occurrence, during a police drug raid in Pittsburgh in 2017, 18 SWAT officers were exposed to fentanyl when a table was overturned and the then unknown substances spilled and became airborne. They became sickened, and all were transported to the hospital.

# What Is Fentanyl?

- Fentanyl is a street drug used as a heroin substitute; it can be found in tablet or sold as powder. Pharmaceutical fentanyl patches have also been seized.
- It is 50-100 times more powerful than morphine and a lethal dose is only 2 mg (2 grains of salt)
- Like other tableted drugs, the color and shape does not confirm what it contains. Fentanyl tablets have been known to mimic Oxycodone pills [green]. Powdered form can be of a different color, e.g. white, pink, purple, blue or green. It may resemble Heroin

# Lethal Dose



Source: GAO elaboration of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration information. | GAO-18-288

# What Is Fentanyl?

- There are no presumptive test kits for fentanyl. Only lab analysis can confirm the presence of fentanyl; Do not conduct field tests when highly toxic substances are suspected.
- While it can be absorbed through unbroken skin, it does take some time. Inhalation or incidental ingestion is the greatest threat to first responders.
- DO NOT ASSUME a white powder is just cocaine

# Perform a Situational Risk Assessment and consider the following:

- Quantity and form. Pills vs powder and how much?
- Packaging. Is it street level (cut) or for transportation (not cut yet or for pill making)
- Potential exposure risk. What is the chance of accidental inhalation or bare skin contamination?

# COMMON RISK HANDLING GUIDELINES

- Any potential contact, wash immediately with soap and water for 15 minutes. Wash over the garment if necessary. Do not use hand sanitizer.
- With a partner, process the suspect powder/drug following the drug process, for highly toxic substances. If any symptoms are identified, contact EMS immediately

# LOW LEVEL RISK HANDLING GUIDELINES

- Always wear double nitrile gloves. If available, use dark-colored nitrile gloves. A waterproof dark-colored Gore-Tex® or similar type patrol/take down jacket will provide an additional level of safety

# Possible Fentanyl?

- If there is a possible threat of fentanyl, make the scene safe, back out and call for assistance from a supervisor.
- Treat the scene as a HAZMAT event.
- PPE's and respirators

# What Is NARCAN?

NARCAN® Nasal Spray is used to temporarily reverse the effects of opioid medicines. The medicine in NARCAN® Nasal Spray has no effect in people who are not taking opioid medicines.

# WHAT IS AN OPIOID OVERDOSE EMERGENCY?

- **Approximately every 12 minutes, someone overdoses on opioids.**
- There are many reasons for opioid overdose emergencies, but most often they happen accidentally and at home.
- Opioids are prescription medicines that can be used to treat pain. Opioids work by attaching to structures in your brain called “receptors” and send signals that block pain, slow breathing, and calm the body down.

# WHAT IS AN OPIOID OVERDOSE EMERGENCY?

- Often, people taking opioids to manage their pain are unaware of the potential adverse reactions. Important to know is that opioid overdose emergencies can occur at any time even when opioids are used as directed, especially at higher doses and when taken with other sedating substances.
- An opioid overdose happens when the body has been overloaded with either a medication or an illicit drug. Because they affect the part of the brain that controls breathing, if opioid levels in your blood are too high, your breathing can slow down to dangerous levels, which could even cause death.

# People at higher risk of an opioid overdose include

- Those who take prescription opioids (such as oxycodone, or fentanyl), especially those taking higher doses
- Taking opioids in combination with other substances such as alcohol or sleep medications known as benzodiazepines (which include Ativan<sup>®</sup>, Xanax<sup>®</sup>, and Valium<sup>®</sup>)
- People with medical conditions such as depression, HIV, or lung/liver disease
- Those who have a reduced tolerance of opioids following detoxification or incarceration
- Those with a suspected or confirmed history of substance abuse, dependence, or nonmedical use of prescription or illegal drugs such as heroin or fentanyl

The bottom line is that anyone who uses opioids for long-term chronic pain as well as use illicit opioids or misuse prescription opioids are at risk for an overdose

# The signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose emergency can include:

- Unusual sleepiness or unresponsiveness
- Breathing will be slow or absent
- Slow heartbeat or low blood pressure
- Skin feels cold and clammy
- Pupils are tiny
- Nails and lips are blue

# Get Help On The Way

- **Get emergency medical help right away after giving the first dose of NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray.**
- Rescue breathing or CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) may be given while waiting for emergency medical help.
- The signs and symptoms of an opioid emergency can return after NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray is given. If this happens, give another dose after 2 to 3 minutes using a new NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray and watch the person closely until emergency help is received.

# What is the most important information I should know about NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray?

- NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray is used to temporarily reverse the effects of opioid medicines. The medicine in NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray has no effect in people who are not taking opioid medicines.
- Use NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray right away if you or your caregiver think signs or symptoms of an opioid emergency are present, even if you are not sure, because an opioid emergency can cause severe injury or death
- You should know where NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray is stored and how to give NARCAN<sup>®</sup> before an opioid emergency happens.

# **NARCAN**<sup>®</sup> (naloxone HCl) **NASAL SPRAY**

## QUICK START GUIDE Opioid Overdose Response Instructions

Use NARCAN Nasal Spray (naloxone hydrochloride) for known or suspected opioid overdose in adults and children.

**Important: For use in the nose only.**

Do not remove or test the NARCAN Nasal Spray until ready to use.

### 1 Identify Opioid Overdose and Check for Response

**Ask** person if he or she is okay and shout name.

**Shake** shoulders and firmly rub the middle of their chest.

**Check for signs of opioid overdose:**

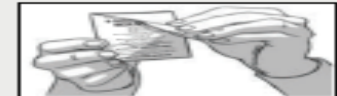
- Will not wake up or respond to your voice or touch
  - Breathing is very slow, irregular, or has stopped
  - Center part of their eye is very small, sometimes called “pinpoint pupils”
- Lay the person on their back to receive a dose of NARCAN Nasal Spray.



### 2 Give NARCAN Nasal Spray

**Remove** NARCAN Nasal Spray from the box.

Peel back the tab with the circle to open the NARCAN Nasal Spray.



**Hold** the NARCAN nasal spray with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and your first and middle fingers on either side of the nozzle.



**Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into either nostril.**

- Tilt the person's head back and provide support under the neck with your hand. Gently insert the tip of the nozzle into one nostril, until your fingers on either side of the nozzle are against the bottom of the person's nose.



**Press the plunger firmly** to give the dose of NARCAN Nasal Spray.

- Remove the NARCAN Nasal Spray from the nostril after giving the dose.



### 3 Call for emergency medical help, Evaluate, and Support

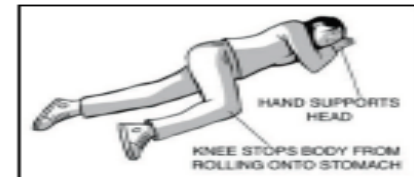
**Get emergency medical help right away.**

**Move the person on their side (recovery position)** after giving NARCAN Nasal Spray.

**Watch the person closely.**

**If the person does not respond** by waking up, to voice or touch, or breathing normally another dose may be given. NARCAN Nasal Spray may be dosed every 2 to 3 minutes, if available.

**Repeat Step 2 using a new NARCAN Nasal Spray to give another dose in the other nostril.** If additional NARCAN Nasal Sprays are available, repeat step 2 every 2 to 3 minutes until the person responds or emergency medical help is received.



# Broke Down To The 3 P's

- PEEL back the package to remove the device. Hold the device with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and 2 fingers on the nozzle.
- PLACE and hold the tip of the nozzle in either nostril until your fingers touch the bottom of the patient's nose.
- PRESS the plunger firmly to release the dose into the patient's nose.

# NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray may cause serious side effects

- Opioid withdrawal symptoms may include body aches, diarrhea, increased heart rate, fever, runny nose, sneezing, goose bumps, sweating, yawning, nausea or vomiting, nervousness, restlessness or irritability, shivering or trembling, stomach cramping, weakness, increased blood pressure.
- In infants under 4 weeks old who have been receiving opioids regularly, sudden opioid withdrawal may be life-threatening if not treated the right way. Signs and symptoms include: seizures, crying more than usual, and increased reflexes.

# Get EMS On Scene As Soon As Safe

- **Not a substitute for emergency medical care.** When administering NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray, always be sure to call 911 right away, even if the person wakes up. Keep the patient under surveillance or close watch. If breathing does not return to normal or if breathing difficulty resumes, after 2-3 minutes, give an additional dose of NARCAN<sup>®</sup> Nasal Spray using a new device in the alternate nostril.

# GEORGIA'S 911 MEDICAL AMNESTY LAW

- Drug overdose is a nationwide epidemic that claimed the lives of over 106,000 Americans in 2021 (NCHS). In Georgia from 2019-2021, overdose deaths associated with fentanyl increased 124%. In 2021 there were 2,390 drug overdose deaths in Georgia (71% attributed to opioids, DPH). Non-fatal drug overdoses increased 10% from 24,886 to 27,388. Nationwide, prescription opioids such as Oxycontin and hydrocodone account for more overdose deaths than heroin and cocaine combined. Opioid overdose, whether caused by heroin or prescription opioids, is typically reversible through the timely administration of naloxone, a safe and effective medication that reverses the effects of opioids, and the provision of other emergency care.

# GEORGIA'S 911 MEDICAL AMNESTY LAW

- In 2014, House Bill 965, “Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law,” was passed by overwhelming majorities in the state House and Senate and was signed by the Governor on April 24, 2014. The law went into effect immediately. The law provides **limited** immunity from arrest, charge, and prosecution for possession of certain drugs and drug paraphernalia for individuals who experience a drug overdose and are in need of medical care and for those who seek medical care in good faith for a person experiencing an overdose. Such persons are also relieved from penalties for violations of protective and restraining orders and violations of conditions of pretrial release, probation and parole if such penalties are “related to the seeking of medical assistance.”

# GEORGIA'S 911 MEDICAL AMNESTY LAW

- In many cases, overdose bystanders may fail to summon medical assistance because they are afraid that doing so may put them at risk of arrest and prosecution. The Medical Amnesty Law attempts to address this problem by providing limited immunity from arrest, charge, and prosecution for possession of controlled substances and marijuana for both a person acting in good faith who seeks medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose (whether for himself or another) and the person suffering from the overdose where the evidence for the arrest, charge or prosecution was obtained solely as a result of the seeking of medical assistance. The law provides immunity from **possession charges only**; it provides no protection for other crimes such as the sale of illegal drugs. Specifically, the law provides protection from arrest, charge or prosecution for possession of less than four grams of a solid controlled substance, less than one milliliter of a liquid substance, or a substance “placed into a secondary medium” with a combined weight of less than four grams. For marijuana, protection is provided for possession of less than one ounce.

# GEORGIA'S 911 MEDICAL AMNESTY LAW

- The bill also provides limited immunity from certain underage drinking offenses for minors who seek help in the event of an alcohol overdose. It also expands access to naloxone by authorizing trained first responders including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel to administer the medication. Finally, the law establishes limited civil and criminal immunity for medical professionals who prescribe naloxone, and laypeople who administer it to a person suspected of suffering from an opioid overdose.

# To Report & Refer

- To report NARCAN use, so we can provide you a replacement, scan the QR Code on next slide to be taken to our webpage.
- To refer anyone for treatment, you may also scan the same code. PORCH is all about saving lives and helping people.

# QR Code



# Back PORCH Post-test

- Please take the Training Post-test.