



Narcan Distribution in Treatment Facilities in New York State

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Editorial

The Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services have recently augmented program rules and regulations to include mandatory staff trainings to safely administer Narcan in opioid overdose situations [1]. Staff is given Narcan, a prescription to possess the medication, and a card verifying training completion. Narcan is effective for preventing death when individuals are overdosing from opiates and is not harmful if Narcan is mistakenly administered for other types of overdoses [2].

In regards to outpatient programs, most clients who are addicted to opiates are more likely to overdose other places than the treatment facilities. It would be beneficial if clients who have an established opioid addiction receive Narcan training with their families and significant others. Family members and significant others are more likely to discover clients in a state of overdose. If treatment facilities

could provide Narcan training, it could contribute the increased survival from an opioid overdose. In addition, it would provide clients and family members a valuable resource which they formerly lacked.

Although Narcan is being made more available and is being carried by emergency medical personnel, clients and their families may not have the information about where to obtain Narcan. Because it is important to include family members, providing this service at the current treatment facility is a logical progression to expand services and potentially save lives.

References

1. Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) (2015) Part 822-Chemical Dependence Outpatient and Opioid Treatment Programs.
2. Center of Disease Control (CDC) (2012) Community-Based Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs Providing Naloxone-United States, 2010.

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