

Preparing for an OD: Adding Intranasal Narcan to Emergency Responses

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Introduction/Problem

With an increase in narcotic overdoses nationally, as well as a state of emergency in Boston, we found that we were ill prepared for a patient who might arrive (or be located) actively overdosing to a non-Emergency Department area of the Medical Center. We are fully prepared for those with IV access, however we did not have readily accessible intranasal Narcan to administer for those lacking IV access. We were concerned about having difference doses of Narcan available in the code cart, as we didn't want staff to confuse which dose/route to use emergently,

Aim/Goal

Our goal was to have intranasal Narcan available for all patients, visitors, and the general public who need the opiate reversal agent as quickly as possible on BIDMC property. We wanted to have this medication available when the Code Blue and First Aid Emergency Response Teams respond to any event.

The Team

- Bridgid Joseph BSN, MSN, CCNS, Program Director Emergency Cardiovascular Care Center
- John Marshall PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM
- Joanne Devine PMHCNS-BC CARN, Psych/Addiction Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Kimberlyanne Sulmonte RN, MHA, CSHA, CPHQ, Associate Chief Nurse, Quality & Safety
- Mike Donnino MD, Director, Division of Critical Care in Emergency Critical Care Medicine
- The Code Committee
- The First Aid Committee

The Interventions

- The concern was shared with Code Committee
- The committee proposed adding the intranasal Narcan two to difference emergency response bags, but omitting it from the code cart itself
- The intranasal Narcan (one dose/pre-made) applicator was chosen based upon it's ease of use, as well as dosage amount, to limit confusion with the IV Narcan which is stored in the code carts
- The medication was added to the Code Blue Pharmacy bag

Results/Progress to Date

- As of 12/2016 the Intranasal Narcan was added to all First Aid bags and all Pharmacy Code Blue bags
- There are two East Campus First Aid bags (PACU and Finard ICU)
 - There is one West Campus which is moved between units on a monthly schedule



Intranasal Narcan (4mg – two doses) in the First Aid bag

For more information, contact:

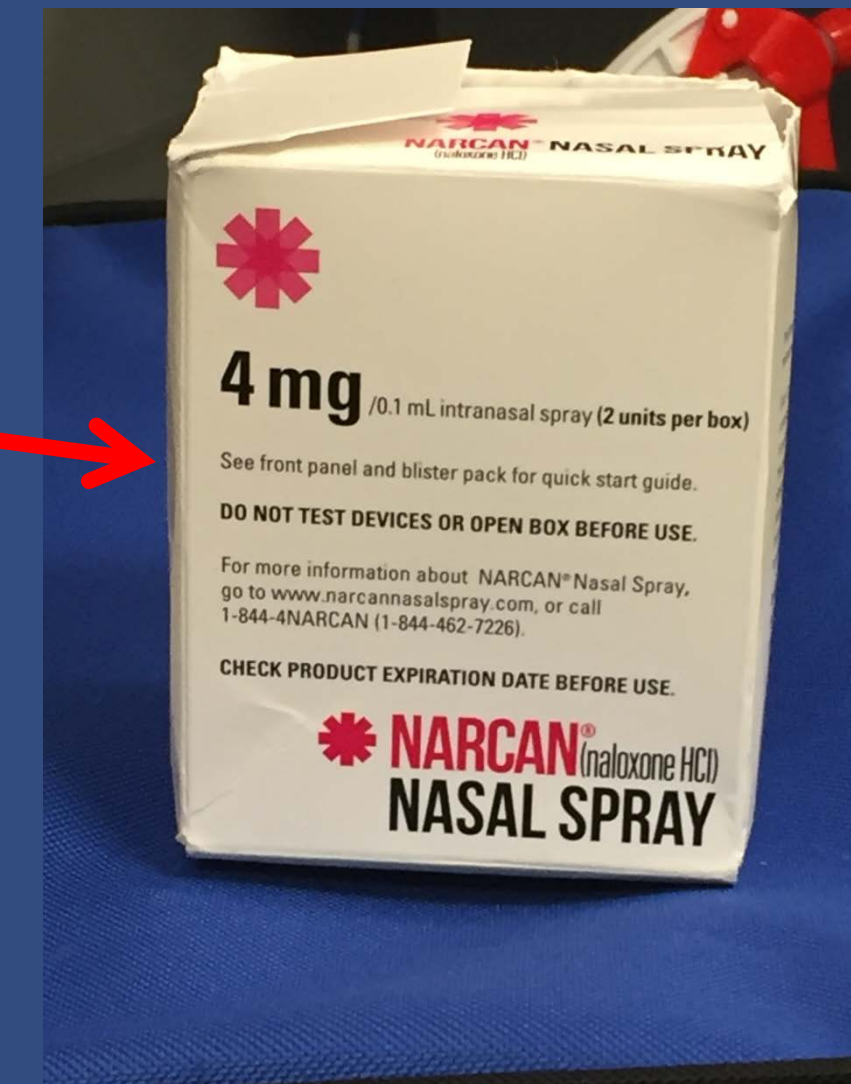
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More Results/Progress to Date



Pharmacy Code Blue bag stocked with intranasal Narcan

Intranasal Narcan (4mg – two doses in the pharmacy Code Blue bag)

Lessons Learned

- We planned for challenges arising from staff, as this is a new way to administer Narcan, that many are not familiar with, however staff embraced the idea of having this lifesaving medication at all medical emergencies.
- Ideally, training for the medications should have occurred before the medications were made live in the emergency response bags, however due to the ease of use of this product, the staff had little to no concerns.

Next Steps

- Continue to educate Emergency Responders re: usage of intranasal Narcan and signs of overdose
- Possible move to not requiring an MD verbal order for use
- Assess usage and need for patient population and adjust availability based upon need.

Pharmacy Code Blue Bag: Intranasal Narcan

- Contains intranasal Narcan for overdose patients/family members who do not have IV access.
- Each box contains two 4 mg intranasal doses.



Also available in the First Aid Bag!

Identify Opioid Overdose

- Person is not responsive
- Ask person if he or she is ok and shout name
- Shake shoulders and sternal rub
- Check for signs of opioid overdose:
 - Will not wake up or respond to voice or touch
 - Breathing is slow, irregular, or stopped
 - Pinpoint pupils
- Drug paraphernalia near by

Administering Intranasal Narcan:

Step 1: Remove NARCAN Nasal Spray from the box. Peel back the tab with the circle to open the NARCAN Nasal Spray



Step 2: 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.

Administering Intranasal Narcan:

Step 3: 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.



Step 4: Press the plunger firmly to give the dose of NARCAN Nasal Spray. Remove the NARCAN Nasal Spray from the nostril after giving the dose.

After Administering Narcan Nasal Spray:

- Position Person on side
- If person does not respond another dose may be given in the other nostril every 2-3 minutes until patient responds
- Narcan nasal spray reverses the effects of opioids only, not benzodiazepines or non opioids
- Effects of long acting opioids may outlast effects of Narcan

Education added to annual MyPATH Training for all RNs as well as to Med/Surg Competency Day

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