County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department

Division: Emergency Medical Services Agency Effective Date: 11/02/2022

Protocol #618

RESPIRATORY DISTRESS – OPIATE OVERDOSE				
	ADULT		PEDIATRIC (≤34 KG)	
BLS				
•	Universal Protocol #601		Same as Adult	
•	Pulse Oximetry			
	 O₂ administration per Airway 			
	Management Protocol #602			
•	May assist with administration of patient's			
	prescribed medication			
BLS Elective Skills				
	Suspected Opiate Overdose with inadequate respirations			
	$(O_2 \text{ Sat} < 94\%, \text{ rate} \le 8 \text{ bpm})$			
•	Narcan 4 mg IN in one nare – assess for adequate respirations			
	 may repeat in alternate nare if no improvement after 2 min, max total of 2 doses 			
ALS Standing Orders				
	Suspected Opiate Overdose		Suspected Opiate Overdose	
	with inadequate respirations		with inadequate respirations	
	$(O_2 \text{ Sat } < 94\% \text{ or } ETCO_2 > 45 \text{ mmHg})$		$(O_2 \text{ Sat} < 94\% \text{ or } ETCO_2 > 45 \text{ mmHg})$	
•	Narcan up to 1 mg IV/IM/IN (split between	•	Narcan 0.1 mg/kg IV/IM/IN (split between	
	nares) – assess for adequate respirations		nares) up to 1 mg – assess for adequate	
	o repeat as needed		respirations	
			 repeat as needed 	
	Extremis			
•	Narcan 0.5 mg SL – assess for adequate		Extremis	
	respirations	•	Narcan 0.5 mg SL – assess for adequate	
	o repeat as needed		respirations	
			o repeat as needed	
Base Hospital Orders Only				
•	As needed	•	As needed	
Notes				
IV is preferred route for Narcan administration				

- IV is preferred route for Narcan administration
- Inadequate airway, and respirations should be supported with BLS adjuncts and ventilations prior to Narcan administration
- Poly-mixed drugs may require additional doses of Narcan titrated to maintain respirations
- Alternate Narcan dosing for BLS Elective Skills may be added with approval of the EMS Agency Medical Director