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THURMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER	<i>Date Issued: October 20, 2014</i>	<i>Effective Date: October 20, 2014</i>	<i>Order No: Chapter 2.16</i>
<i>Authority: Chief of Police Gregory L. Eyer</i>		<i>Manual Page No:</i>	
<i>Subject: Overdose Response (Narcan)</i>		<i>Replaces Page No:</i>	
<i>Accreditation Standard:</i>	<i>Distribution: ALL</i>	<i>Amends:</i>	<i>Number of Pages: 4</i>
<i>Related Documents:</i>		<i>Rescinds: New Policy</i>	

This Directive is for internal use only, and other than as contraindicated here this Directive does not create or enlarge this Department's, governmental entity's, any of this Department's officers, and/or any other entities' civil, criminal, and/or other accountability in any way. This Directive is not to be construed as the creation of a standard of safety or care in any sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance, litigation, and/or other action. Deviations from this Directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-Departmental administrative action(s) (including discipline and/or termination).

I. PURPOSE:

The Thurmont Police Department is committed to preserving life and taking all appropriate measures to render aid during a medical emergency.

II. POLICY:

It is the policy of the Thurmont Police Department to respond to calls for service involving a medical emergency. When deemed appropriate, and in the absence of Emergency Medical Personnel, Thurmont Police Officers will administer "Narcan" if the victim is displaying signs of an overdose of opiates.

III. PROCEDURE: (Overdose Response Program)

Thurmont Police Department personnel have received training provided by the Frederick County Health Department to administer Naloxone through the Overdose Response Program. Naloxone is a fast-acting opiate antagonist used in emergency medicine to rapidly reverse opiate-related sedation and respiratory depression. Naloxone is marketed under various trademarks including "Narcan," "Nalone," and "Narcanti." Narcan is a scheduled drug, but has no euphoric properties and minimal side effects. If it is administered to a person who is not suffering an opiate overdose, it will do no harm. During an opiate overdose, a patient may suffer a disruption in normal breathing. In some cases breathing may stop altogether, quickly leading to death. Law Enforcement often arrives on scene of overdoses before EMS personnel. The administration of Narcan by trained Law Enforcement officers will help save

lives.

IV. Indicators of Opiate Overdose:

A. Trained Thurmont Police Officers will administer nasal “Narcan” on subjects suffering from an opiate overdose. Indicators of an opiate overdose include, but are not limited to:

1. Blood-shot eyes
2. Pinpoint pupils, even in a darkened room/area
3. Depressed or slow respiratory rate
4. Difficulty breathing (labored breathing, shallow breaths)
5. Blue skin, lips, or fingernails
6. Decreased pulse rate
7. Low blood pressure
8. Loss of alertness (drowsiness)
9. Unresponsiveness
10. Seizures
11. Evidence of ingestion, inhalation, and injection
12. Past history of opiate use/abuse

B. Officers will follow the protocols outlined in their nasal “Narcan” training when administering the product:

1. When using the nasal “Narcan” kit, officers will maintain scene safety, universal precautions against pathogens, perform patient assessment, determine unresponsiveness, and absence of breathing and /or pulse.
2. Officers should update communications that the patient is in a potential overdose state and ensure that EMS has been dispatched to the scene.
3. Officers will help to ensure the patient is transported to the hospital. If the patient will not go to the hospital voluntarily, then the emergency evaluation process will be initiated if there is evidence that the patient attempted suicide by their ingestion of opiates or express suicidal thoughts or ideations, or if there are other criteria for an evaluation under the emergency petition process. If the patient continues to refuse transport, and they reasonably appear to have the capacity to make a conscious decision, they may legally refuse further medical assistance.

V. Documentation:

Upon completing a medical assist with the “Narcan,” officers will complete an Incident Report detailing the nature of the incident, the care the patient received, and language within the narrative that “Narcan” was deployed and describe if the administration resulted in a positive outcome for the subject. Officers will also complete a “Thurmont

Police Department Deployment of Nasal Naloxone” form and submit it with the Incident Report. This form will be used for statistical reporting when requested by the Frederick County Health Department. Upon level 4 review, Records personnel will pull this form from the Incident Report and file in a specific folder for Narcan usage.

VI. Maintenance and Replacement:

- A. Officers authorized to use nasal “Narcan” kits are responsible for inspection of the kit prior to each shift. Missing or damaged nasal “Narcan” kits will be reported to a supervisor. If a new kit needs to be issued, the supervisor will facilitate obtaining a new kit/prescription from the Frederick County Health Department.
- B. “Narcan” has a shelf life of (2) two years. It is important to store the “Narcan” at the proper temperature and not to expose the medication to light. It is recommended that the nasal “Narcan” kit be stored in the glove compartment of your assigned vehicle for protection from the elements such as light, heat, and cold temperatures during the officer’s tour of duty. Officers will remove the “Narcan” from their vehicles during off duty periods and extreme weather conditions.

VII. Supervisory Responsibilities:

Supervisors will ensure:

- A. Nasal “Narcan” kits are current and not past the expiration date
- B. Proper and efficient deployment of the nasal “Narcan” for field use
- C. Authorized officers have been adequately trained in its use
- D. That any use of “Narcan” on a subject is properly documented
- E. Replacement of nasal “Narcan” that are damaged, unusable, expired, or have been used
- F. That each individual prescription written to the authorized officer for possession of “Narcan” is maintained in their personnel files while employed with the agency
- G. Provide reports/statistics of “Narcan” use to the Frederick County Health Department upon their request

DOCUMENT DATES :

Amended Date: 11/3/2014

Review Date:

Review Date:

Review Date:

Rescinds:

Order Written By: Lt. P.A. Droneburg

Order Edited and Approved By: Chief Gregory L. Eyer

Accreditation Standards Included in this Order

CHAPTER