

## **Establishing nurse-led overdose prevention training in public medically-assisted opioid treatment centres: Lessons learned**

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**Background:** Medication-assisted treatment programs for opioid use disorder can improve abstinence. <sup>1,2</sup> Although during the initial stages of any program, there is still a high risk of opioid overdose, <sup>3-5</sup> not all those who are at risk are offered naloxone, an opioid overdose antidote. <sup>6,7</sup> There are no existing training procedures for patients in Queensland Health about overdose reversal.

**Description of Model of Care/Intervention:** We developed a nurse-led take-home naloxone (THN) and overdose prevention training program where intranasal THN kits were prescribed and dispensed directly to participants free of charge. The program included administration of the Opioid Overdose Knowledge Scale <sup>8</sup> which informed the nurse on educational needs of the patient, a video clip that demonstrated the identification and management of overdose and the participant with a summary of learnings.

### **Effectiveness:**

Nurses from three Queensland Health community opioid treatment clinics were engaged to provide the novel opioid overdose prevention training to participants. Despite interruptions external to this pilot from the current pandemic response, 100 education sessions were conducted between October 2020 and June 2021 and all centres integrated this model of care into their practice. Anecdotally, we have been advised of at least two cases in which THN kits were used to reverse opioid overdose in the community.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps:**

This novel THN program was readily accepted into alcohol and other drug outpatient clinic practices for management of patients with opioid dependence. Community opioid treatment clinics should consider introducing this model of care into routine practice.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

*No pharmaceutical grants were received in the development of this study. This work was supported by a Metro North Hospital and Health Service SEED grant (LNKSEE00872019).*

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