

	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>OPR2390</b>
	<b>CHAPTER:</b>	<b>MEDICAL AID AND RESPONSE</b>	
	<b>DIRECTIVE:</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION OF OPIATE ANTAGONIST</b>	

## 1.0 SUMMARY

Abuse of opioid drugs pose a substantial risk of an overdose death. Exposure to opioids, such as fentanyl, pose a risk of death to first responders. An opiate antagonist (Narcan, naloxone) may reverse an opiate overdose if administered in a timely manner. Colorado statutes allow for the use of opiate antagonists for the purpose of saving lives of people who suffer opioid drug overdose events. This directive defines the authority and the procedures for an employee to administer an opiate antagonist in the event of an opiate overdose.

Colorado statute (CRS § 18-1-711) grants immunity from arrest and prosecution for the offenses of unlawful use and unlawful possession of controlled substances when a person reports in good faith an emergency drug overdose and that person remains at the scene of the event until law enforcement arrives. This immunity also extends to the person who suffered the emergency drug overdose.

## 2.0 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIATE ANTAGONIST

Only employees authorized by the Department may possess or administer an opiate antagonist such as naloxone hydrochloride or any similarly acting drug for the treatment of a drug overdose. Officers should use caution if administering the medication to an unfamiliar person without a back-up officer present. The medication shall be administered in accordance with written protocol specified by the medical professional who prescribed the overdose medication for use by the employee (CRS § 12-36-117.7; CRS § 12-38-125.5; CRS § 12-42.5-120). An employee who acts in good faith to administer an opiate antagonist to another person whom the employee believes to be suffering an opiate-related drug overdose event shall be immune from criminal prosecution and not liable for any civil damages for such act. (CRS § 18-1-712(2); CRS § 13-21-108.7).

### 2.1 OPIATE ANTAGONIST USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees who are qualified to administer an opiate antagonist will be issued the medication, which shall be handled, stored, and administered consistent with their training. Employees should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or

unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Training Sergeant. Officers on patrol are required to have their issued opiate antagonist readily available to them while they are on duty. They may carry it on their person or in their patrol vehicle. Other employees who are issued the medication are required to keep it readily available in their work area or in a department vehicle if out on an incident scene.

Any employee who administers an opiate antagonist should contact the Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS (CRS § 12-36-117.7; CRS § 12-38-125.5; CRS § 12-42.5-120).

## 2.2 OPIATE ANTAGONIST REPORTING

Any employee administering an opiate antagonist should detail its use in an appropriate report.

The Training Sergeant will ensure that the Records Supervisor is provided enough information to meet applicable state reporting requirements.

## 2.3 OPIATE ANTAGONIST TRAINING

The Training Sergeant should ensure training is provided to employees authorized to administer an opiate antagonist.

The Training Sergeant should coordinate training with the prescribing medical professional (CRS § 12-36-117.7; CRS § 12-38-125.5; CRS § 12-42.5-120).



Lexipol Policy Medical Aid and Response/Administration of Opiate Antagonist- 469.9 relates to this directive.