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OPINION: Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment

APPROVED DATE: July 2017

REVIEWED DATE:

REVISED DATE:

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
Practice & Education Committee

An advisory opinion adopted by WSBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of WSBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and/or decrease risk.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of X APRN RN LPN CNA

ADVISORY OPINION OPIATE OVERDOSE EMERGENCY TREATMENT

Intent of Advisory Opinion:

In accordance with W.S. 33-21-122 (c) (iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on the practice of prescribing an opiate antagonist by standing order for the purpose of emergency treatment. The purpose of this opinion is to guide safe practice.

Introduction: The Wyoming Legislature passed Enrolled Act Number SEA No. 0050, Emergency Administration of Opiate Antagonist Act 35-4-901, which allows Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, with prescriptive authority, to prescribe an opiate antagonist by standing order to an individual, entity or organization. The entity or organization must then establish a drug treatment policy and report overdose events to the Department of Health. All APRN roles are eligible.

WSBN acknowledges APRNs are uniquely positioned to assist the general public by supporting community efforts in emergency overdose treatment. WSBN also acknowledges no APRN will be held liable for persons who administer an opiate antagonist in emergency efforts under the Enrolled Act SEA No. 0050, Emergency Administration of Opiate Antagonist Act 35-4-901 or the Wyoming State Nurse Practice Act (NPA Chapter 21, 33-21-120). WSBN acknowledges if an APRN chooses to prescribe an opiate antagonist by standing order, he/she must follow the rules of safe medication prescribing from the NPA, Chapter 3 of the Rules, Section 2, Prescriptive Authority; (a-c) and all other standards of safe practice.

If an APRN chooses to support an entity or organization's efforts, he/she is not required to have a personal relationship with the future recipient of the opiate antagonist; however, the APRN must provide written educational materials and general instructions to the individual or entity for emergency evaluation,

post administration. WSBN suggests all standing order prescriptions have an expiration date of one year from date written. The APRN is required to review additional rules promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy and Department of Health pertaining to opiate overdose emergency treatment and comply with those requirements. WSBN encourages APRNs to be knowledgeable and current regarding evidenced-based practices for the use of opioid antagonists. Educational links are listed below.

WSBN codifies the ability of an APRN to prescribe medications within the recognized scope of the APRN's role and population focus and in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to the WPA, WCSA, DEA, the FCSA, and their applicable Rules and Regulations.

In any setting, if there are questions regarding authority, please refer to The Wyoming Enrolled Act Number SEA No. 0050, Emergency Administration of Opiate Antagonist Act 35-4-901, attached.

References:

Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment Act: Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-4-901 through -906.

Nurse Practice Act: Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-101 through -157.

World Health Organization

www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/management_opioid_overdose/en/

SAMHSA Toolkit <http://store.samhsa.gov>