



December 7, 2016

1075784

Dear Registrant:

Re: Preventing Opioid Overdose Deaths

I am writing to you today concerning one aspect of your legal obligation to ensure the health and safety of your residents. As an operator of a registered assisted living residence, Section 26(5) of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* requires you to:

“Ensure that the assisted living residence is operated in a manner that does not jeopardize the health or safety of its residents.”

In April 2016, the Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency under B.C.’s *Public Health Act* in response to an unprecedented number of opioid overdose deaths across the province. While the rate of overdose deaths remains unacceptably high, countless lives are being saved by community members and first responders through the rapid administration of Naloxone.

In July 2016, Premier Christy Clark announced the establishment of the Joint Task Force on Overdose Prevention and Response (Joint Task Force) to lead an integrated response to the emergency across the public health and public safety sectors.

The first recommendation of the Joint Task Force is specific to the administration of Naloxone:

“Immediate response to an overdose by expanding naloxone availability and the reach of supervised consumption services in the province.”

In light of the seriousness of the present crisis, and in order to ensure the health and safety of residents to whom you are providing substance use services, you are required to implement policies and procedures to prevent as well as to respond to opioid overdose incidents.

1. Registrants who provide services to persons who are at risk of an opioid drug overdose must either obtain and maintain a supply of Naloxone for emergency use, or allow persons receiving services to bring Take Home Naloxone Kits into the residence
2. Registrants must receive training in the administration of Naloxone from a pharmacist or other qualified individual or organization, and must ensure that residence staff receives training to administer Naloxone and to provide first aid. Registrants must ensure that trained staff is available at all times to administer Naloxone while residents are under the supervision of the registrant.

3. Registrants must ensure that when Naloxone is administered, first aid including artificial respiration is provided, and that 911 is called immediately.
4. Registrants must report any administration of Naloxone as a reportable incident to the Assisted Living Registry.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact the Assisted Living Registry at (250) 952-1369 (Victoria) or toll-free at 1-866-714-3378.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Hughes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Hughes
Assistant Deputy Minister
Assisted Living Registrar

pc: Bob Nakagawa, RPh
Registrar, College of Pharmacists of BC

Attachment: Resources

Resources

<http://towardtheheart.com/naloxone/>