

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Protocol Number: E-5
Effective Date: 5/23/2023
Review Date: 6/30/2027

OVERDOSE AND POISONING

BLS CARE

Routine Medical Care

Identify and locate the substance. Protect self and consider contacting California Poison Control at (800) 222-1222.

Prevent additional contact with the substance, as warranted. Prevent further access to the substance by the patient.

Do not induce vomiting. Give nothing by mouth.

Substance-Specific Treatment (in addition to Routine Medical Care):

Suspected Opioid Overdose

Naloxone, up to 4 mg intra-nasal (IN), if respirations are less than 10/minute. Assess for improved respiratory rate and quality. May repeat one time if respirations remain less than 10/minute.

ALS CARE

Routine Medical Care

Substance-Specific Treatment (in addition to Routine Medical Care):

Suspected Opioid Overdose

Naloxone, up to 2 mg IV/IM/IN/IO, if respirations are less than 10/minute. Titrate to improved respiratory rate and quality. May repeat up to 8 mg if respirations remain less than 10/minute.

May be administered **IM** by an EMT working under the supervision of a paramedic.

Naloxone 4 mg IN if using a single-dose IN device.

~~**Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) **** Requires a physician order through medical control. ** (877)4 EMS BUP or (877)436-7287** See EMS System Policy #4520: MAT—EMS Buprenorphine (Opioid Withdrawal) Flowchart. Provider agencies must have approval from the EMS Agency in order to participate in this Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) item.**~~

Buprenorphine 16 mg SL may be administered to patients with symptoms of opioid withdrawal or for patients who have been successfully resuscitated with naloxone following a near-fatal opioid overdose. If symptoms worsen or persist, **may repeat 8 mg SL** (for a total maximum dosage of 24 mg SL).

| See [EMS System Policy #4520](#) for inclusion and exclusion criteria and further details.

Ingestion of Non-Petroleum Based Substance or Non-Caustic Substance

Activated Charcoal 1 gm/kg PO should be considered if the time of ingestion was less than one (≤ 1) hour prior to EMS arrival and if the patient is alert and able to safely swallow liquid.

Organophosphate Poisoning

Atropine 2 mg IV/IO. May repeat every 5 minutes while symptomatic.

Cyclic Anti-Depressant Overdose

Sodium Bicarbonate 1 mEq/kg IV/IO. Use for widened QRS (> 100 msec), hypotension, tachycardia, or heart block.

Seizures are usually brief and self-limited. ACTIVE seizures may be treated with **midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV (not to exceed 5 mg) or 0.2 mg/kg IM/IN (not to exceed 10 mg).**

Dystonic Reaction

Diphenhydramine 25 or 50 mg IV/IM.

Beta Blocker Overdose (with symptomatic bradycardia or hypotension)

Glucagon 3 mg IV/IM/IO. (First-line treatment.)

Calcium Chloride 1 gram slow IV/IO (over 5 minutes). May repeat once in 10 minutes if patient remains hypotensive.

Atropine 1 mg IV/IO. May repeat once in five minutes if no improvement in heart rate.

Calcium Channel Blocker Overdose (with symptomatic bradycardia or hypotension)

Calcium Chloride 1 gram slow IV/IO (over 5 minutes). May repeat every 10 minutes while symptomatic.

Glucagon 3 mg IV/IM/IO.

Atropine 1 mg IV/IO. May repeat once in five minutes if no improvement in heart rate.

CHEMPACK Deployment.

Nerve Agent Poisoning

Atropine (auto-injector or injectable)

- **Atropine 2 mg IM auto-injector.** May repeat every 5 minutes until symptoms relieved.
OR

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- **Atropine 2 mg IV/IO.** May repeat every 5 minutes while symptomatic.

2-PAM (Pralidoxime) IM auto-injector.

Administer 1 auto-injector IM for mild symptoms such as mild shortness of breath, or for moderate symptoms such as sweating, twitching, and weakness.

Administer 3 auto-injectors IM for severe symptoms such as seizures, apnea, or copious secretions.

Diazepam (auto-injector or injectable)

- **Diazepam 5 mg IM auto-injector.** Administer 1 auto-injector IM for seizures or severe muscle twitching. May repeat every 5 minutes for seizures and every 10 minutes for muscle twitching until symptoms resolve.

OR

- **Diazepam 5 mg IV/IM/IO** titrated to effect for seizures. May repeat every 10 minutes for continued seizures. Maximum total dose is 30mg.