

Medical Directive

Title: Naloxone (Narcan) Administration in Respiratory Depressed Paediatric Patients Receiving Opioids

Approved by and Date: May 17, 2005

Authorized to who

Registered Nurses who are employed on the Paediatric Unit.

(Medical Directive Description

For opioid induced depression of respiration:

- Establish patient airway and administer oxygen.
- Be prepared to ventilate patient with bag/valve/mask system
- Adminster Naloxone 0.01 mg/kg/dose up to a maximum of 1 mg, IV Direct Push, rapid administration (Partial Reversal). Repeat q 3 minutes to a maximum 3 doses.
- If no IV access, administer same dose IM (intra-muscularly)
- Notify physician stat
- Monitor patient closely in a constant care setting for a minimum of 3 hours. Place patient on continuous cardiorespiratory monitor.
- Manually assess and document BP, HR, RR O2 sat, and sedation score q ½ hour or as per patient condition.
- Use with caution in patients who use opioids regularly for a chronic medical condition.

Patient Description / Population

Infants, children, and adolescents admitted as inpatients on the paediatric unit.

Identify relevant Delegated Control Act or Added Skill associated with this Directive

Administration of IV Medication below drip chamber

Specific conditions/circumstances that must be met before the Directive can be implemented

Patient has been assessed as experiencing opioid induced depression of respiration:

- Bromage Sedation Scale is 3 and RR is below the normal lower limit for the patient, or
- Apnea.

Bromage Sedation Scale:

- 0- None – Alert
- 1- Mild – Occasionally drowsy, easy to arouse
- 2- Moderate – Frequently drowsy, easy to arouse
- 3- Severe – Somnolent, difficult to arouse
- 4- Sleep – normal sleep, easy to arouse

Variations in respiration with age*

| Age | Rates (breaths/min) |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Premature infant | 40-90 |
| Neonate | 30-80 |
| 1 yr | 20-40 |
| 2 yr | 20-30 |
| 3 yr | 20-30 |
| 5 yr | 20-25 |
| 10 yr | 17-22 |
| 15 yr | 15-20 |
| 20 yr | 15-20 |

*Opioid analgesics decrease respiratory rate.

Contraindications to the implementation of the Directive

Documentation requirements

On the physician order sheet and the patient's health record: "Administration of Naloxone in Respiratory Depressed Paediatric Patients receiving opioids. Medical Directive may be printed and attached to the chart for documentation purposes." Date, time and signature of the RN implementing this directive. The RN will document the administration (MAR), assessment and monitoring of patient pre and post Naloxone.

Review/Evaluation Process (how often/by who)

Every year by Maternal Child Program

Related Documents

- Potentially Highly Toxic Drugs Corporate Policy.
- Paediatric Medication Administration: Medication Requiring Double Check Policy and Procedure.
- Monitoring of Paediatric Patients Receiving Parenteral Opioids for Analgesia Policy & Procedure

References

Hospital for Sick Children Formulary 2003/2004

Joyce Engle: Pocket Guide Paediatric Physical Assessment, 1993. 2nd Ed.

Hospital for Sick Children: Patients Observation, Vital signs Monitoring and Continuous Electronic Monitoring Project. 2001.

