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Opioid Overdose Prevention and Awareness Policy

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OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS POLICY

Statement of Policy

The University of Maine System (UMS) is committed to maintaining safe and substance-free campuses for all students, employees and visitors. It is the intent of UMS and each of its universities to increase awareness regarding opioid addiction and prevention. In the unfortunate instance of opioid overdose, it is the intent of UMS to decrease the likelihood of overdose related death through the proper training, administration, and usage of naloxone hydrochloride, commonly known as Narcan® Nasal Spray, or other similarly acting and equally safe overdose-reversing drug approved by the FDA (“Intranasal Naloxone” or “IN kits”). Therefore, this policy serves to guide each UMS university on the use of Intranasal Naloxone to help prevent opioid deaths on UMS campuses.

In addition to any university-level protocols contemplated by this Policy, UMS encourages all UMS universities to adopt processes to increase awareness within its university community of opioid addiction, the risks of opioid overdoses, and the administration of Intranasal Naloxone and other life-saving measures in the event of an opioid overdose.

University Specific Opioid Overdose Prevention Procedures

Intranasal Naloxone is available to the public with or without a prescription. UMS will not interfere with or discourage any individual member of the UMS community from carrying or administering their personally-owned Intranasal Naloxone.

UMS universities may, at their discretion, adopt university-level policies or protocols that allow for the administration of UMS- owned Intranasal Naloxone in the following instances:

- By appropriately trained licensed healthcare personnel, law enforcement, any UMS staff or faculty who has been trained and whose job description includes the training for and provision of basic first aid;
- By appropriately trained UMS staff or faculty when deemed necessary (for example, off-campus trips, etc.); and
- In UMS-owned first aid kit or other designated area to be administered by the public, including any individual member of the UMS community.

Such university-level policies or protocols will be implemented only after review by the appropriate campus-level authorities and then by the UMS Office of General Counsel and Risk & Safety Management and will include provisions regarding:

- The purchase, storage, distribution, handling, and disposal of the Intranasal Naloxone, including consideration of the manufacturer’s specifications;
- The individuals or categories of individuals authorized to carry or administer Intranasal Naloxone, and the training requirements for same;
- If the policy or protocol includes UMS-owned Intranasal Naloxone in first aid kits or other designated area, identification of the location of the boxes, details on how the Naloxone will be stocked, including how directions for use will be included, and identification of the responsible parties for management of the contents of the first aid kit/other designated area;

- Requirement that 911 be dialed every time Intranasal Naloxone is administered other than by authorized law enforcement or emergency services personnel or a first responder dispatched by 911;
- Communicating and providing appropriate training to the university community and stakeholders about the university-level Intranasal Naloxone policy or protocols;
- An internal reporting mechanism with appropriate confidentiality safeguards including but not limited to incident reports so university leadership are periodically made aware of the frequency and the circumstances of any administration of Intranasal Naloxone on university property or by university personnel;
- Any applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, or collective bargaining agreements to ensure they are in harmony with the policy or protocol on Intranasal Naloxone. For example, Public Law 2023, Chapter 153 An Act to Require All Uniformed Patrol Officers to Carry Naloxone Hydrochloride When on Duty (to be in effect January 2024)