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An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN 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 AZBN 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.

OPINION: Administration of Naloxone: The Role of the School Nurse
APPROVED: 11/24
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X LPN X RN

ADVISORY OPINION ADMINISTRATION OF NALOXONE: THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL NURSE

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the legal authority and Scope of Practice of a nurse (RN or LPN) to administer over-the-counter naloxone in school settings without a standing order in an emergency situation.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Comprehensive written policy and procedures are developed and maintained by the school/employer
- B. Training on how to administer naloxone, including assessment, documentation and post-administration care
- C. Training on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose

II. RATIONALE

One of the primary reasons for stocking Naloxone (commonly known as Narcan) in schools is the importance of being prepared for emergencies. Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can rapidly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. In summary, having Naloxone available in schools is a proactive safety measure that can save lives, increase access to this life-saving medication and address the rising rates of youth overdoses. The role of nurses in distributing and administering this medication is pivotal.

APPLICABLE STATUTES

ARS 36-2267. Administration of opioid antagonist; exemption from civil liability; definition

A. A person may administer an opioid antagonist that is prescribed or dispensed pursuant to section 32-1979 or 36-2266 in accordance with the protocol specified by the physician, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or other health professional or that is received from a county health department pursuant to section 36-192 to a person who is experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

B. A person who in good faith and without compensation administers an opioid antagonist to a person who is experiencing an opioid-related overdose is not liable for any civil or other damages as the result of any act or omission by the person rendering the care or as the result of any act or failure to act to arrange for further medical treatment or care for the person experiencing the overdose, unless the person while rendering the care acts with gross negligence, wilful misconduct or intentional wrongdoing.

C. For the purposes of this section, "person" includes an employee of a school district or charter school who is acting in the person's official capacity.

III. REFERENCES

Arizona Department of Health Services (2024). *Opioid Prevention*. <https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/>

Gage CB, Powell JR, Ulintz A, et al. Layperson-Administered Naloxone Trends Reported in Emergency Medical Service Activations, 2020-2022. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2024;7(10):e2439427. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.39427