



TITLE: Naloxone for Use in Long-term Care and Palliative Care: Clinical Effectiveness, Safety, and Guidelines

DATE: 16 December 2013

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the evidence for the clinical effectiveness and safety of naloxone to reverse the effects of narcotics in long-term care and palliative care patients?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines for the use of naloxone to reverse the effects of narcotics in long-term care and palliative care patients?

KEY MESSAGE

One evidence-based guideline was identified for the use of naloxone to reverse the effects of narcotics in long-term care and palliative care patients. No evidence was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness and safety of naloxone to reverse the effects of narcotics in long-term care and palliative care patients.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2013, Issue 12), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2008 and December 9, 2013. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are

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presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline was identified for the use of naloxone to reverse the effects of narcotics in long-term care and palliative care patients. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

1. Paez Borda A, Charnay-Sonnek F, Fonteyne V, Papaioannou EG. Guidelines on pain management & palliative care [Internet]. Arnhem (Netherlands): European Association of Urology; 2013 [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: http://www.uroweb.org/gls/pdf/24_Pain_Management_LR.pdf
See: Respiratory Depression, page 20

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Clinical Guidance Documents

2. Swarm RA, Abernethy AP, Anghelescu DL, Benedetti C, Buga S, Cleeland C, et al. Adult cancer pain. NCCN clinical practice guidelines in oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) [Internet]. Version 2.2013. Fort Washington (PA): National Comprehensive Cancer Network; 2013 [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: http://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/f_guidelines.asp#supportive Free subscription required.
Note: naloxone mentioned throughout
3. MacLeod R, Vella-Brincat J, MacLeod S. The palliative care handbook: guidelines for clinical management and symptom control [Internet]. 6th ed. Wellington: Hospice New Zealand; 2012 [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: http://www.hospice.org.nz/cms_show_download.php?id=377
Note: naloxone mentioned throughout
4. Pan Birmingham Cancer Network. Guidelines for the use of naloxone in palliative care in adult patients [Internet]. Birmingham: The Network; 2012 May [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: [http://www.birminghamcancer.nhs.uk/uploads/document_file/document/4fc8dc6c358e984d34000112/Guidelines for the Use of Naloxone in Palliative Care Adult Patients - version 2.0.pdf](http://www.birminghamcancer.nhs.uk/uploads/document_file/document/4fc8dc6c358e984d34000112/Guidelines%20for%20the%20Use%20of%20Naloxone%20in%20Palliative%20Care%20Adult%20Patients%20-%20version%202.0.pdf)
5. Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network (GAIN). General palliative care guidelines for the management of pain at the end of life in adult patients [Internet]. Belfast: GAIN; 2011 Feb [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: <http://www.gain-ni.org/images/Uploads/Guidelines/Gain%20pain%20final.pdf>
See: Opioid Toxicity table, pages 20 and 21
6. Greater Manchester & Cheshire Cancer Network. Pain & symptom control guidelines: palliative care [Internet]. 3rd ed. Cheshire: East Cheshire NHS Trust; 2011 Jul [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: <http://www.eastcheshire.nhs.uk/About-The-Trust/policies/P/Palliative%20care%20pain%20and%20symptom%20control%20guidelines%203rd%20edition%201582.pdf>
See: 6. Management of Opioid Side Effects – viii, page 7
7. NHS Lothian. Naloxone in palliative care [Internet]. [Edinburgh]: NHS Lothian; 2010 Aug [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: <http://www.palliativecareguidelines.scot.nhs.uk/documents/naloxonefinal.pdf>
8. Bhatnagar M. Palliative care symptom guide [Internet]. Version 9.0 pain card. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh; 2010 Jul [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from: <http://www.dom.pitt.edu/DGIM/spc/downloads/paincard2010.pdf>
9. Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Clinical protocol for the nursing response to suspected excessive opioid-induced central nervous system and respiratory depression in community palliative care patients [Internet]. Winnipeg: The Authority; 2010 Jul [cited 2013

Dec 16]. Available from:

http://www.virtualhospice.ca/Assets/Narcan%20protocol_20120110163651.pdf

10. Northern Health Medical Advisory Committee. Hospice palliative care program symptom guidelines [Internet]. 2nd ed. Dawson Creek (BC): Northern Health Authority; 2008 Oct [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from:
http://www.northernhealth.ca/portals/0/your_health/hcc/hospice%20palliative%20care/nh%20hpc%20resources/symptom%20guidelines%202nd%20edition.pdf
See: 6th bullet point, page 137
11. North of England Cancer Network palliative care guidelines [Internet]. [Newcastle Upon Tyne]: North of England Cancer Network; 2008 Dec [cited 2013 Dec 16]. Available from:
http://www.gp-palliativecare.co.uk/files/north_england_cancer_network_palliative_care_guidelines_feb_09.pdf
See: 8. Emergency treatment of opioid toxicity, page 8