

Nova Scotia Antidote Program

Quarterly Report:
Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2016

The Nova Scotia Antidote Kit program is pleased to present another Quarterly Report, which provides information on changes and trends in antidote therapy and reports ongoing Provincial Antidote usage.

Antidote usage Oct 1st –Dec 31st 2016						
Western Zone 1	Northern Zone 2	Eastern Zone 3	Central Zone 4	IWK	Quarterly Total	Year to Date
9	16	6	22	2	55	169

Highlights of antidote use during the past 3 months

A total of 55 antidotes were used in 46 different patient cases. Of these, 7 antidotes were used by community hospitals and 36 in regional facilities. Twelve were used in tertiary hospitals.

	# of Uses		# of Uses
Naloxone	20	Insulin	4
Sodium Bicarbonate	11	Flumazenil	3
Digoxin Fab Fragment	4	Calcium	2
Fomepizole	4	Deferoxamine	2
Glucagon	4	Octreotide	1

Naloxone and Emergency Preparedness in Nova Scotia

With our provincial antidote program, Nova Scotia is in a unique position to respond to an opioid overdose situation. Over 1200 ampoules of naloxone are located in Antidote Kits across the province. Additional stock is located in Emergency Departments, operating rooms, pharmacy dispensaries and the Provincial Drug Distribution Program. Dosage and administration guidelines for naloxone, and other antidotes, can be found online at <http://iwkpoisoncentre.ca/manual.html>.

For help with management, and to ensure we are tracking opioid overdose and naloxone use, please contact the IWK Regional Poison Centre at 1-800-565-8161 to report cases.

Activated Charcoal Shortage

Update as of January 10, 2017: Activated Charcoal is now available and no longer on back-order. Thank you to Central Zone pharmacy that provided support and directions to hospital pharmacies across Nova Scotia for ordering and preparing activated charcoal powder during this shortage. Reminder: The routine use of activated charcoal **WITH** sorbitol is **not recommended**. It should not be used for multiple doses in the same patient or in children <1 yr. Please stock **ONLY** the aqueous charcoal product (CHARAC) and **DO NOT STOCK** the product containing sorbitol (CHARAC-TOLI) in all patient care areas.