

The Nova Scotia Antidote 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 April 1 <sup>st</sup> to June 30 2017						
Western Zone 1	Northern Zone 2	Eastern Zone 3	Central Zone 4	IWK	Quarterly Total	Year to Date
5	17	14	24	0	60	116

### Highlights of antidote use during the past 3 months

A total of 60 antidotes were used in 44 different patient cases. Of these, 13 antidotes were used by community hospitals and 32 in regional facilities. Fifteen were used in tertiary hospitals.

- Use of Naloxone was reported for 22 patients. This is similar to the use reported in the first quarter (24 patients).
- Hydroxocobalamin was used in three cases of potential cyanide toxicity from smoke inhalation
- Methylene Blue was used as an antidote in one patient. It has been used rarely to treat vasodilatory shock unresponsive to conventional therapy.
- High dose insulin is considered first line treatment of toxicity due to calcium channel blockers or beta blockers. It was used in 9 different patients across the province.
- Digoxin fab fragments was used in one patient to treat digoxin toxicity.

### Sodium Bicarbonate shortage

As you are aware, we are currently experiencing a **critical shortage of sodium bicarbonate**. It is not known how long this situation will last. **Sodium acetate** can be used as an alternative for patients with drug toxicity. Indications include: sodium channel blockade, urine alkalinisation for increased drug elimination and correction of acidosis in methanol or ethylene glycol toxicity.

We understand that emergency departments at the following hospitals may have a supply of sodium acetate: Halifax Infirmary, Cape Breton Regional, Colchester Regional and Dartmouth General Hospital. Using sodium acetate may help conserve sodium bicarbonate for those in critical need. Information on dosing can be obtained from the IWK Regional Poison Centre at 1-800-565-8161.

### Fomepizole

It has come to our attention that both manufacturers of fomepizole (Sterimax and Paladin) will no longer issue credit for expired product. Please ensure you are tracking expiry dates of product within your district or zone, and rotating stock as needed to minimize wastage. Fomepizole is used regularly in hospitals across Nova Scotia, and was used 16 times in 2016.