TITLE: Policies to Expand Naloxone Availability: A Review of the Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 23 September 2014

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What is the effectiveness of policies to increase the availability of naloxone to opioid users?

KEY FINDINGS

One systematic review and two non-randomized studies regarding the effectiveness of policies to increase the availability of naloxone to opioid users were identified.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, Embase, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 9), 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. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2009 and September 15, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Prescribers and users of opioids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Policies increasing access to naloxone (e.g., take-home naloxone policies, making naloxone non-prescription, policing promoting lay administration of naloxone, making naloxone a paid benefit, co-prescribing policies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparator</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Harm reduction (overdose reduction, reduced opioid-related harms, reduced overdose mortality, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Designs</td>
<td>Health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies.

One systematic review and two non-randomized studies regarding the effectiveness of policies to increase the availability of naloxone to opioid users were identified. No health technology assessment reports, meta-analyses, or randomized controlled trials were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

**Health Technology Assessments**
No literature identified.

**Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses**


**Randomized Controlled Trials**
No literature identified.

**Non-Randomized Studies**


See: 3. Opioid related deaths within four weeks of prison release, page 18


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Randomized Controlled Trials – Intervention Effectiveness


Non-Randomized Studies

No Comparative Data


**Physician Outcomes**


**Appropriate Use**


**Review Articles**


Additional References

   PubMed: PM22337174

   PubMed: PM20575626