



## **COTM Guidance on Administering Naloxone**

This advisory statement clarifies the roles occupational therapists may have in administering Naloxone. Specifically, it discusses the impact that amendments to Regulated Health Professions General Regulation have on occupational therapists' practice.

The administration of Naloxone is outside the scope of occupational therapy (OT) practice as it falls under the reserved act of administering a substance by injection or inhalation.

However, on December 10, 2020, an amendment was made to the [Regulated Health Professions General Regulation](#) to clarify that any person may administer Naloxone when indicated for emergency use in response to opioid overdose.

The College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba (COTM) acknowledges the important role of occupational therapists in responding to the opioid crisis, as health care professionals. Occupational therapists work in a variety of practice settings and may encounter individuals who are at risk of opioid overdose.

If an OT is expected to administer Naloxone in the course of their role, the OT must:

- acquire appropriate training in the use of the forms of naloxone that they are expected to administer: intra-nasal (inhalation) or intramuscular (injection)
- be ready to safely and effectively administer naloxone and manage the outcome of the administration
- comply with their organizational policies and procedures.

While these regulatory changes allow occupational therapists to administer naloxone in emergency situations, employers (e.g., health authorities) may limit or more narrowly define an occupational therapist's role. Occupational therapists are advised to speak with their leadership team and familiarize themselves with related employer policies, procedures, and processes. Furthermore, OTs are encouraged to review any relevant legislation, regulations, and updates pertaining to Manitoba's Opioid Strategy and the administration of naloxone.

Questions regarding the content or application of this document should be made to COTM, Professional Practice Manager at [ines.mckenzie@cotm.ca](mailto:ines.mckenzie@cotm.ca)

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