

BCH POSITION STATEMENTS

Date: 16/10/17



Naloxone

BCH Role

Ballarat Community Health is working with our partners in general practice, pharmacy and AOD treatment services to increase the prescribing and dispensing of naloxone. Anyone using any type of opioid is potentially at risk of overdose.

Key Messages

- Ambulance and coroner data show that overdose from both legal and illegal drugs is a significant concern in rural and regional Victoria, and opioid drugs play an increasing role
- Naloxone is a medication that reverses the effects of opioids in the body. It is non-addictive and safe, and available on prescription or as an over-the-counter medication. There are two forms available in Australia: 1ml ampoules (which require drawing up into a syringe) or pre-filled 2ml syringes (brand name Prenoxad)
- Thousands of lives are saved and brain injuries avoided each year in Australia by paramedics and community members administering naloxone to patients who have suffered an opioid overdose
- Community members who are likely to be a bystander to a potential overdose can be easily trained in how to respond in the event of an overdose, and provided with naloxone
- BCH's Harm Minimisation Coordinator is a pharmacist and has special approval from the Victorian Pharmacy Authority to dispense naloxone directly to clients, either at BCH sites or via outreach
- Several Ballarat Community Health staff are also trained and accredited by the Penington Institute to provide 'overdose educator' training to clients and support people on how to respond to overdose, including administering naloxone.

Ballarat Community Health provides direct service to clients in this area. For more information contact:

- Pauline Molloy – Harm Minimisation Coordinator, on 5338 9142
- Jacqueline Keevins, Manager – Pharmacotherapy Network, on 5338 0511.