

E19 OVERDOSE / INGESTION

Key Questions	PRE ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS
Was this:	
A - Drug / Plant / Poison?	Relay to responders.
B - Gas?	Protect yourself first. If safe to do so, move the patient to fresh air & ID the substance - think CBRNE
C - Chemical?	Only if safe to do so remove clothing - think CBRNE
Was this to hurt themselves?	Advise Law Enforcement, Refer to Suicide Police or Psychiatric EMS as appropriate.
What was taken? Amount? Time taken? Method of Contact?	Advise Responders
Keep responders/bystanders safe	Is it safe to approach the patient and/or enter the area? Advise responders, request PD if necessary.

INCIDENT TYPES	
Overdose / poisoning	OD F
Overdose / Suicide Attempt	Go to Suicide PAI
Poisoning / Hazardous Materials	Go to Hazmat PAI

SECONDARY QUESTIONS	PRE ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS
Swallowed Poison?	Do not induce vomiting. Call Poison Control
Inhaled Poisons?	Get the victim to fresh air immediately. Open all windows and doors for fresh air. Call Poison Control.
If this is an opiate overdose: Is there Narcan available?	Follow the directions on the package. Watch the patient closely. CPR may be given while waiting for help. Advise responders. Common opiates: Morphine, Codeine, Heroin, Dilaudid, Demerol, Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Oxycontin, Vicodin, Fentanyl, Methadone.
Difficulty breathing?	Conscious: Position of comfort Unconscious: if not breathing normally start CPR
Nausea or vomiting?	Turn patient on left side
Seizure?	DO NOT restrain, protect from injury. DO NOT put anything in mouth. Check airway and breathing after seizure stops, refer to Seizure page as appropriate

Consult with the POISON CONTROL CENTER 1-800-222-1222

The most important step in aiding a poison victim is to call the OPC immediately. Never wait for symptoms to occur; even if the victim looks and feels fine, you still need to call immediately. Poisoning related symptoms can be delayed. What you do in the first few minutes can mean the difference between life and death. Staff at the poison center is available to provide quick, accurate, precise poisoning treatment information. If necessary, the victim will be referred to the nearest health care facility for treatment.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

[Narcan Auto Injector instructions](#)

[Narcan Nasal Spray instructions](#)

<p>Alcohol abuse effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aggressive - inappropriate behavior• self injury - falls• respiratory Depression• Vomiting Blood• Muscular uncoordination• memory loss	<p>Alcohol withdrawal Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hallucinations• Delerium Tremens (DT's) - fever, sweating, confusion, disorientations, anxiety, agitation, delusions, convulsions and death.
<p>Drug abuse types</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opium compounds• central nervous system depressants• stimulants	

- nicotine marijuana
- hallucinogens
- inhalants

Effects of Depressants

- Mild drowsiness to coma
- Vomiting
- Respiratory depression
- Respiratory Arrest

Effects of Stimulants

- Restlessness
- Severe anxiety
- Acute depression
- Seizures

Effects of hallucinogens

- perceptual alterations related to sound and sight

Note:

Alcohol and drug abuse often cause seizures, respiratory depression and cardiac arrest