BlueCross BlueShield
Federal Employee Program

LifEMS NALOXONE
(Naloxone Convenience Kit)

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM

Background

Naloxone hydrochloride antagonizes opioid effects by competing for the μ, κ, and σ opiate receptor sites in the central nervous system, with the greatest affinity for the μ receptor. Naloxone hydrochloride prevents or reverses the effects of opioids including respiratory depression, sedation, and hypotension. When administered intravenously, the onset of action is generally apparent within two minutes (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA approved indication: LifEMS Naloxone (Naloxone Convenience Kit) is indicated for the complete or partial reversal of opioid depression, including respiratory depression, induced by natural and synthetic opioids including, propoxyphene, methadone and certain mixed agonist-antagonist analgesics: nalbuphine, pentazocine, butorphanol and cyclazocine. LifEMS Naloxone is also indicated for the diagnosis of suspected or known acute opioid overdosage (1).

LifEMS Naloxone is not effective against respiratory depression due to non-opioid drugs and in the management of acute toxicity caused by levopropoxyphene. Reversal of respiratory depression by partial agonists of mixed agonist/antagonists, such as buprenorphine and pentazocine, may be incomplete or require higher doses of naloxone (1).

LifEMS Naloxone is a naloxone convenience kit designed to treat a single episode of an opioid overdose. The naloxone provided in this kit must be used on the patient experiencing signs and symptoms of an overdose. Each LifEMS Naloxone kit contains: 1 Naloxone Hydrochloride USP injection (1 mg/mL) 2mL single dose disposable prefilled syringe in a MINI-I-JET® syringe with a 21 G. x 1-1/2 needle; 2 alcohol pads for administration; 1 Naloxone package insert; and 1 instructions for use card (1).

Summary

Naloxone hydrochloride antagonizes opioid effects by competing for the μ, κ, and σ opiate receptor sites in the central nervous system, with the greatest affinity for the μ receptor. Naloxone hydrochloride prevents or reverses the effects of opioids including respiratory depression, sedation, and hypotension. When administered intravenously, the onset of action is generally

apparent within two minutes. LifEMS Naloxone is a naloxone convenience kit designed to treat a single episode of opioid overdose (1).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate and cost-effective use of LifEMS Naloxone while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

1. LifEMS Naloxone [package insert]. El Monte, CA: International Medication Systems, Limited; February 2022.