



Narcotic Analgesic Impairment Guide

Major Indicators

HGN: None
VGN: None
LOC: None
Pupil Size: Constricted
Reaction to Light: Little to None Visible
Pulse: Down
BP: Down
Temp: Down
Muscle Tone: Flaccid

General Indicators:

Depressed Reflexes
Droopy Eyelids
Drowsiness
Dry Mouth
Euphoria
Itching
Nausea
“On the nod”
Puncture Marks
Slow, low, raspy speech
Slow breathing
Slow Movements

Duration of Effects: Heroin (4-6 hours), Methadone (up to 24 hours), Others vary

Usual Methods of Ingestion: injected, insufflation, oral, smoked, transdermal

OD Signs: Cold clammy skin, coma, convulsions, slow shallow breathing

Narcotic Analgesic Withdrawal Signs and Symptoms

- Body aches
- Diarrhea
- Tachycardia
- Fever
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Piloerection
- Sweating
- Yawning
- Nausea or vomiting
- Nervousness
- Restlessness
- Irritability
- Shivering/trembling
- Abdominal cramps
- Weakness
- Increased BP



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Sample Overdose Narrative (Phase two – Personal Contact)

I approached the vehicle, and I saw the driver had the side of his head resting on top of the steering wheel with his eyes closed and his hands at his sides. I tried to catch the driver's attention by knocking on the window, but his eyes remained closed, and he didn't respond. I opened the driver's side door, and I suspected the driver had a medical emergency due to a narcotic analgesic overdose. He had slow and shallow breathing, clammy skin, and he remained unresponsive as I removed him from the vehicle. When I rolled his eyelids back, I saw he had constricted pupils. I tried a sternum rub to his chest, and he didn't respond. Officer Jones said she saw a used hypodermic needle, a rubber tie off, and a cooking tin with brownish residue on the passenger side floorboard. I requested EMS to respond emergent to my location.

I obtained an intramuscular dose of Naloxone (Narcan), and I administered a dose to his upper left thigh. I didn't notice a change in his appearance. EMS personnel arrived, and I told them about my above observations, and my suspicion the driver had suffered a narcotic analgesic overdose. I saw they administered another dose of Narcan intravenously to the driver.

Approximately one minute after he the intravenous dose, I saw the driver's demeanor change. He gradually regained consciousness, and he was upset. EMS had to hold him down briefly as they initially administered care because he wanted to leave. EMS asked him how much heroin he ingested, and he said, "I was just sleeping."

As the driver regained consciousness, I noticed he exhibited signs and symptoms of narcotic analgesic withdrawal. The current temperature was 75 degrees Fahrenheit. I saw he had a runny nose, his face was sweaty, and he was shivering. I noticed he had goosebumps and piloerection on his forearms. I saw an approximate 1-inch track mark in the crook of his left elbow. He also had bruising to the crook of his left elbow and left forearm. I saw he had approximately 12 non-medical injection sites that varied in age where I saw bruising on his arm, with a fresh non-medical injection site in the crook of his left elbow. EMS took his vital signs, and I saw on their monitor his BP was 180/110 mmHg, and his pulse was 110 bpm. They stated his temperature was 100 degrees Fahrenheit. He initially complained his stomach hurt, and he also told EMS later, "I hurt all over, man." He told EMS he couldn't get up because he didn't feel well, and they had to put him on their cot to get him in the back of the ambulance. I saw his pupils remained constricted, and I estimated his pupil size at approximately 2.0mm. I saw his eyes were very watery, and he exhibited ptosis (droopy eyelids).