

What was the challenge?

The wide distribution of drug overdose prevention kits in Alberta means that overdose kits may be used by users with little to no experience or previous medical training. The user is expected to receive basic kit training by a medical professional, however, it is possible that training may be refused or forgotten at the time of use. As a result, people are often left to rely solely on the instructions and information included in the kit. Some users encounter the instructions for the first time in the midst of an emergency when they need to urgently give an injection to someone who has lost consciousness.

What was the solution?

Provincial overdose kits were designed and three prototypes were tested with users; students, experienced drug users, and inexperienced friends and family of drug users. Observations from testing showed that end users are experiencing unique challenges in accessing education and using instructions on how to administer naloxone in an overdose setting. Co-design approaches that gather information with and about communities using antidote kits are urgently needed in order to mitigate risk and ensure successful administration of first aid and naloxone in an emergency.

What was the effect?

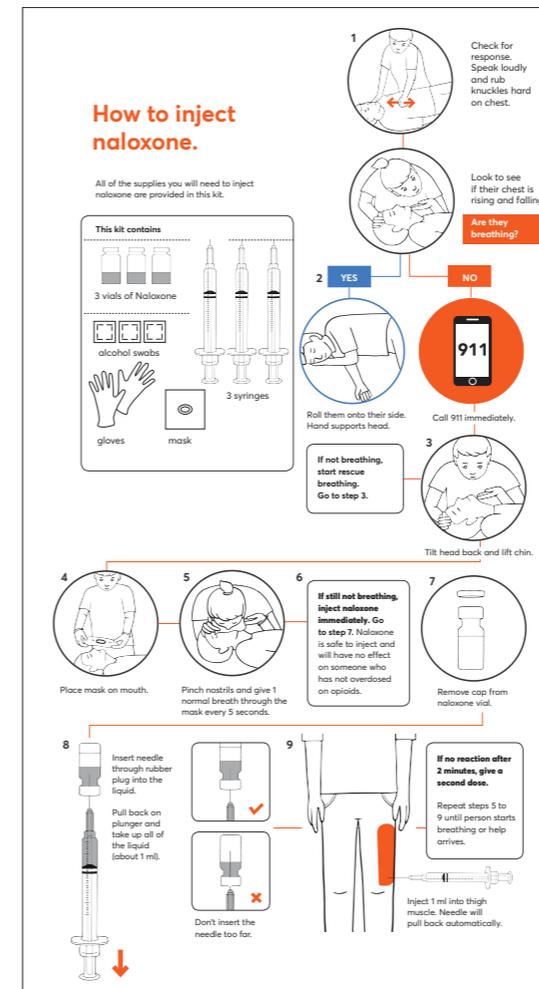
Redesigned and tested instructions are now included in every overdose kit that are free to every Albertan. There are over 2,000 sites in Alberta, where anyone can pick up a kit free of charge. A 'Skyrocketing number of reversals' has been reported indicating that overdose kits are working: According to the Opioid Response Surveillance Report, from Jan. 1, 2016 to Sept. 30, 2019, 195,460 naloxone kits were dispensed in the province through Alberta Health Services' naloxone program, and 12,830 overdose reversals were reported.



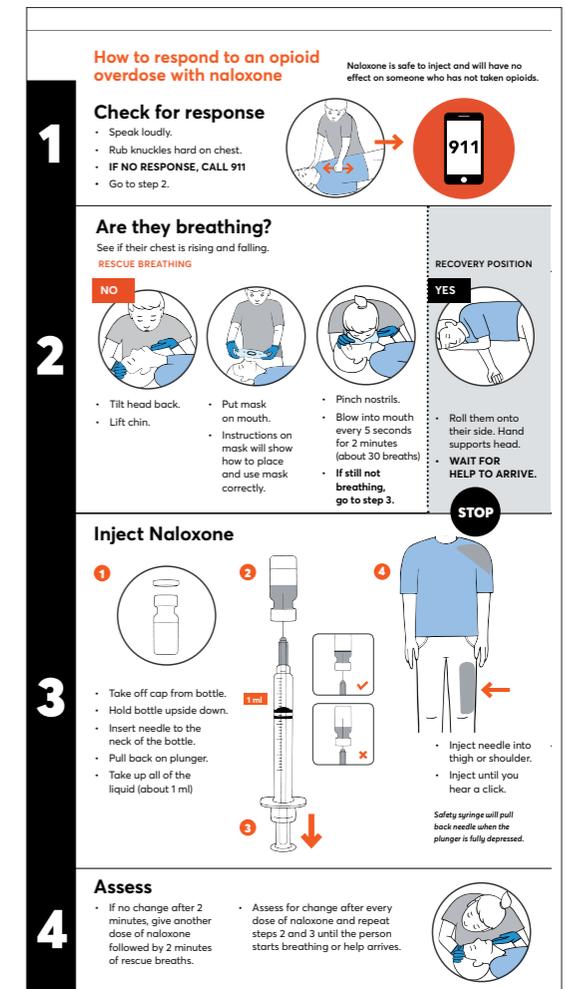
outside of Provincial Overdose Kit



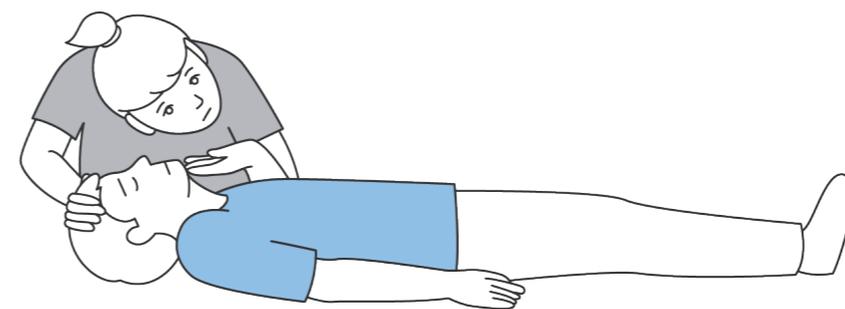
final, printed brochure inside kit



prototype 1 tested



prototype 2 tested



Contact:

name: Gillian Harvey
 company/organisation: University of Alberta
 e-mail: gharvey@ualberta.ca
 website: ualberta.ca