

# YOU narCAN SAVE LIVES

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## Assessment

### Opportunity:

- Allow Blessed Beginnings (BB) at Blessing Hospital (BH) the use and access of naloxone (Narcan) to be distributed and available to postpartum women at risk for opioid addiction

### Driving Forces:

- Patient safety and outcomes
- Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC)
- Staff and management of BB

### Restraining Forces:

- Cost of supplies
- Locations offering free or affordable Narcan
- Negative perceptions

## Literature Review

- Substance use disorders were the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in 2016-2017.<sup>4</sup>
- Opioids accounted for 91% of all substance use disorder deaths in 2016-2017.<sup>4</sup>
- Mothers with opioid use disorder (OUD) who are untreated and do not receive any treatment have an increased risk in overdose and death.<sup>1</sup>
- Perinatal women can benefit from screening and education on OUD.<sup>2</sup>
- It is recommended that Narcan is provided to all postpartum women at the time of discharge.<sup>2</sup>
- A lack of OUD screening increases the risk of postpartum overdose.<sup>3</sup>
- The postpartum period is a risk factor for opioid overdose due to depression, demands of infant care, and a lack of maternal support.<sup>3</sup>

## Planning

### Short-Term Goal:

- Develop education and identify resources for distribution of Narcan to postpartum women
- Improve linkage to addiction care for moms with OUD

### Long-Term Goal:

- Reduce opioid-related overdose deaths in the community

### Strategies to Hardwire Change:

- Collaborate with Nurse Manager/staff
- Utilize resources on the ILPQC website

### Evaluation Plan:

- Participate in ILPQC data collection

## Implementation

### Implementation Steps:

- Communicated with Nurse Manager
- Collaborated with Adams County Health Department (ACHD)
- Notified Nurse Manager of the Narcan program through Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
- Nurse Manager applied for Narcan through IDHS
- Secured free Narcan
- Developed educational flyer
- Engaged and educated nurses

### Strategies for Handling Resistance:

- Education on statistics and facts of opioid use
- Ongoing communication with Nurse Manager
- Provide information and statistics from ILPQC website

## Evaluation

### Evaluation of Change:

- Staff to track the number of postpartum women who were identified at risk of opioid use and provide Narcan as indicated
- Nurse Manager will continue to monitor ILPQC data

### Strategies to Stabilize:

- Initiate follow-up education through staff meetings
- Future development of other opportunities for education
- Nurse Manager to continue ILPQC program participation

## Summary

### What We Learned:

- Opioid use and opioid-related deaths are on the rise in postpartum women throughout Illinois
- Strategies to overcome restraining forces
- Communication with key stakeholders is important

### What We Would Do Differently:

- Communicate more frequently and earlier with key stakeholders
- Provide education materials to pediatric and obstetric/gynecology (OB/GYN) clinics throughout the community

## References

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Figure List

Figure 1. Pill Jars [Online Image]. (n.d.). Retrieved April 9, 2022 from <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/illustration/pills-jars-royalty-free-illustration/676746260?adppopup=true>



Figure 1.

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