

Nova Scotia Antidote Program

2021 Quarterly Report #3
July 1, 2021 to Sept 30, 2021

The Nova Scotia Antidote Program is pleased to present another Quarterly Report, which provides information on changes and trends in antidote therapy and reports ongoing Provincial Antidote usage.

Antidote usage July 1 to Sept 30, 2021						
Western Zone	Northern Zone	Eastern Zone	Central Zone	IWK	Quarterly Total	Year to Date
10	6	8	19	0	43	138

Highlights of antidote use during the past 3 months

A total of **43 antidotes** were used in **38 different patient cases**. Of these, 3 antidotes were used by community hospitals, 35 in regional facilities and 5 in tertiary hospitals.

Antidotes accessed in community hospitals: Sodium bicarbonate and naloxone.

- Digoxin Immune Fab (DigiFab) was used in two patients with chronic digoxin treatment.
- High dose insulin was used in three patients with toxicity from beta blocker or calcium channel blocker exposure.
- Sodium Bicarbonate was used in eight patients: Four patients with salicylate toxicity and four patients with evidence of sodium channel blockade (wide QRS).
- Naloxone was reported as used for 20 patients with known or suspected opioid toxicity. *These are only cases that were reported to the Poison Centre. Actual hospital use is presumed to be higher.*
- Octreotide was used in two patients with refractory hypoglycemia secondary to a toxic ingestion.

Single Concentration N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) protocol for Acetaminophen Toxicity Implemented Fall 2021!

In an effort to simplify dosing and decrease the incidence of medication administration errors, the IWK Regional Poison Centre has now started recommending a **new single concentration protocol**. Instead of preparing 3 separate bags and administering 3 separate infusions, the new protocol uses a single standard concentration of NAC. An initial loading dose is given over 1 hour, followed by a maintenance infusion for 20 hours.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the implementation of this new protocol a success. It was a coordinated effort with smart pump updates, new order sets, education of front-line staff and more.

The single concentration NAC protocol can be found online at <https://iwkpoisoncentre.ca/manual.html>

Why should you contact the Poison Centre?

1-800-565-8161

1. We can help with the management of patients with **acute or chronic drug toxicity** and with appropriate use of antidotes and other treatments.
2. As part of the Provincial Antidote Program, we are required to track the use of all antidotes.
3. Data from the IWK Poison Centre is used to monitor and track exposures, including poisonings, overdoses, accidental exposures, adverse events etc. across Nova Scotia.