

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 Oct 1st, 2022 to Dec 31st, 2022						
Western Zone	Northern Zone	Eastern Zone	Central Zone	IWK	Quarterly Total	Year to Date
13	10	17	30	2	72	219

Antidote usage 2022 FULL YEAR					
Western Zone	Northern Zone	Eastern Zone	Central Zone	IWK	2021 total
41	32	38	105	3	219

### Highlights of antidote use during the past 3 months

There was report of **72 antidotes** from the antidote kit used in **56 different patient cases** in Nova Scotia. Of these, 3 antidotes were used by community hospitals, 54 in regional facilities and 15 in tertiary hospitals.

- Calcium channel blocker and beta-blocker toxicity continues to be a significant cause for antidote usage. There were 8 cases in total with uses of High dose insulin, Glucagon, Calcium Gluconate, Calcium Chloride and Sodium Bicarbonate (avg 2.3 antidotes/case).
- Octreotide was used twice to treat refractory hypoglycemia from sulfonylurea toxicity.
- Naloxone was again the most reported antidote at 26 uses in known or suspected opioid toxicity.

### Reported Antidote Use in Nova Scotia 2022 – Year in Review

- Use of the antidote kit has increased from 2021 to 2022. There were 219 unique uses of the antidote kit in 2022, this is a 15.3% increase over last year.
- High-dose Insulin/Dextrose use continues to increase year over year. These antidotes were used in 15 cases in 2022, a 25% increase over 2021. This follows the 71% increase observed last year between 2021 and 2020. The available evidence pool and level of familiarity with High-dose Insulin/Dextrose for patients with beta blocker and calcium channel blocker toxicity continues to deepen.
- Recorded use of Digoxin Fab Fragments remains stable for 2021 and 2022, with 8 uses in both years.

*In 2022, an antidote was used about every 1.67 days in an emergency department in Nova Scotia. Use of the antidote kit is increasing.*

### It is important to contact the Poison Centre for several reasons.

1. We can help with the management of patients with **acute or chronic drug toxicity** and with appropriate use of antidotes and other treatments. For example – we can help with assessing the need for Fomepizole in the case of suspected or confirmed toxic alcohol exposures.
2. As part of the Provincial Antidote Program, we are required to track the use of all antidotes. We use this information to support the stocking of the antidote kits to serve each hospital best.
3. Data from the Atlantic Canada Poison Centre is used to monitor and track exposures, including poisonings, overdoses, accidental exposures, adverse events etc. across Nova Scotia.

**Contact the Poison Centre – 1-800-565-8161**