

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 Jul 1 to Sep 30, 2023						
Western Zone	Northern Zone	Eastern Zone	Central Zone	IWK	Quarterly Total	Year to Date
15	7	12	35	0	69	191

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

A total of **69 antidotes** were used in **57 different patient cases**. Of these, 6 antidotes were used by community hospitals, 44 in regional facilities and 19 in tertiary hospitals.

- Naloxone was the most used antidote during the 2023 quarter #3 period. It was used 32 times in known or suspected opioid toxicity. There was distribution in use over all hospital types.
- Calcium Gluconate was used 7 times for hypocalcemia due to hydrofluoric acid exposure and for hypotension/bradycardia due to calcium channel blocker or beta blocker toxicity. Calcium Gluconate may be mixed in K-Y Jelly or Muko lubricating jelly and be applied topically for dermal exposure to hydrofluoric acid.
- There were two uses of Pyridoxine, an antidote that is commonly used as co-factor therapy for ethylene glycol toxicity. This antidote has another use; management of seizures/altered mental status with isoniazid, hydrazines or gyromitra mushroom toxicity.

### Special Access Program Antidotes

Dimaval, Pralidoxime and Physostigmine are the antidotes included in the antidote program that are not available for sale through the usual channels, they must be accessed with permission from Health Canada's special access program. To avoid duplication of effort and cost, these antidotes are ordered together for the entire province once they are used, or the expiry comes up. When considering using these antidotes contact the Atlantic Canada Poison Centre to ensure timely replacement and adequate provincial stock.

### 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 when treatment with Fomepizole for massive acetaminophen overdoses may be indicated.
2. As part of the Provincial Antidote Program, we are required to track the use of all antidotes.
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**