

Supplementary Methods: “I think that that really could benefit a lonely user:” Perceptions of Overdose Response Hotlines Among People who use Opioids

Rachel E. Gicquelais, PhD, MPH,*¹ Rachel P. Chenoweth, DNP, APRN,² Nora Jacobson, PhD,^{2,3} Caitlin Conway, BSN,² Gina M. Bryan, DNP, APRN, FAAN, FNAP²

¹Departments of Population Health Sciences & Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison

School of Medicine and Public Health

²University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing

³University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

*Corresponding author: Rachel E. Gicquelais, gicquelais@wisc.edu

Interview Guide

The following interview guide was used to complete a semi-structured, 30-45 minute in-depth interview with 10 study participants who met the following eligibility criteria: aged 18 years or older, receiving treatment for drug use at a facility that partnered with the research team (redacted from the interview guide below by noting it as [Treatment Facility]), scored moderate, or high risk for opioid involvement on the National Institute on Drug Abuse - Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Tool (NIDA-ASSIST) [26], and not currently pregnant.

I would like to start by learning a bit more about you and your experience at [Treatment Facility]. I am also going to ask you about your substance use. Some of these questions may be difficult to answer or bring up past memories. Please know that we can take a break at any time or skip questions if needed.

1. What brought you to [Treatment Facility]?
 - a. Probe: What unit or program are you participating in at [Treatment Facility]?
 - b. Probe: What types of treatment are you receiving in this program?
 - c. Probe: What, if any, medications are you taking to treat substance use disorder?
 - d. Probe: How long have you been in treatment?
 - e. Probe: How many times have you been in treatment before?

2. [If not covered above, ask]: Please tell me about your substance use.
 - a. Probe: How often do you use fentanyl?
 - b. Probe: How do you know if a drug contains fentanyl?
3. How often do you use drugs while you are alone?
 - a. Probe for: what used, time of day, setting of use, how close is the nearest person
 - b. Probe: What are some ways you stay safe while using drugs when you are alone?
4. Please tell me about any overdoses you have had.
 - a. Probe: how many overdoses involved an opioid?
 - b. Probe (if overdosed): please tell me about your most serious overdose experience involving an opioid.
 - i. Probe for details: what used, when was the OD, who they were with, was naloxone given (how many doses, and by whom), what happened afterwards (e.g., hospitalization, etc)
5. Tell me what you know about overdose risks.
 - a. Probe: What do you think are some practices or behaviors that increase your risk of overdose?
 - b. Probe: What situations have you been in that put you at risk of overdose?
 - c. Probe: What do you do now to reduce your risk of overdose?
 - i. Examples if needed: Have naloxone, avoid using alone, use slowly, space out use of different substances, fentanyl test strips
 - ii. What makes it hard to (fill in safety strategies they mentioned to use safely?)
 - iii. How often do you use these strategies? How have they been helpful in the past?
 - d. Probe: What have you seen others do to reduce their risk?
 - e. Probe: What do you do to be safe when you think or know there is fentanyl in your drugs?
6. What have you heard about naloxone, which is sometimes called Narcan?
 - a. Probe: Who told you about naloxone?
 - b. Probe: What do you think about people keeping naloxone with them to help reduce risk of overdose?

- c. Probe [if they have had a supply before]: who prescribed or gave it to them, where they got naloxone, where they keep their naloxone, whether they keep it on them regularly
- 7. Please tell me about any times you have administered naloxone to someone else.
 - a. Probe: How did you get the supply of naloxone you used?

Naloxone Programs: *Thank you for sharing this information about yourself and your experiences. I would like to move on and ask for your thoughts and ideas about how we could distribute naloxone and what an overdose prevention program at [Treatment Facility] might look like.*

- 8. What topics should staff discuss during treatment to help people reduce their overdose risk?
 - a. Probe: What are some topics to avoid?
- 9. [Treatment Facility] staff are considering handing out naloxone to people in treatment and providing training on how to use it. What do you think about this?
 - a. Probe: What training would people need so they are ready to administer naloxone?
 - b. Probe: What are some reasons people would take the training?
 - c. Probe: What are some reasons people would not take the training?
 - d. Probe: What kind of training formats would be best? (e.g., video, handout, one-on-one or group training with staff)
- 10. How do you think people would feel about their provider knowing they want or already have a supply of naloxone?
- 11. How do you think people would feel about inviting family, friends, partners, and other support persons to a naloxone training?
- 12. Once someone receives a supply of naloxone, what are some things they could do to make sure they have it when they need it?
 - a. Probe: Where do you think they should keep their naloxone so someone around them could use it in case of emergency?
 - b. Probe: How do you think people can let others know where their naloxone supply is located?
 - c. Probe: What would people think about keeping a supply of naloxone with them, for example in a pocket or your bag?

- d. Probe: What fears or hesitations could people have about keeping naloxone with them?
 - e. Probe: What are some reasons to keep naloxone nearby or with you?
13. There are now some special services to make using alone safer. For example, there is an overdose safety line people can call by phone before they use, and the person on the line can call 911 if someone ends up overdosing. What are some benefits of this service?
- a. Probe: What would be people's main hesitations or fears?
14. What other overdose prevention services would be helpful for people who use while they are alone?
15. Is there anything else you would like to share that we have not already discussed?

DEMOGRAPHICS

We have completed all the interview questions for our discussion today. Before we finish up, I need to ask you a couple questions about yourself.

How old are you? _____

What sex or gender do you identify with?

What race do you identify with?

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Conclude: *Thank you for your time today. What questions do you have for me before we complete the interview?*
