



Dalgarno
INSTITUTE

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ISSUE: Naloxone and unsupervised Rapid Detox - Warning!

[*"Permissibility, availability and accessibility - all increase consumption."* Dalgarno Institute.]

"The announcement today by the group Anex, calling on Governments to provide Naloxone (an opiate antagonist which blocks the actions of opiates) (Narcan^R) to lay people to administer to heroin addicts is both naïve and dangerous. Even if safeguards are put in place to provide this medication to people who have no medical training outside a clinical environments, this proposal is foolhardy in the extreme.

There are presently severe restrictions on the use of naloxone for Rapid Opiate Detoxification (ROD). Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that reverses the effect of opioids and precipitates acute withdrawal. It is well known that monitoring of the process by medical staff such as checking blood pressure and blood oxygen levels and using other medications to counter these effects is very important.

If used to prevent overdose the risks are no less. More concerning will be the attempt by addicts to use it to do their own ROD. The risk that people will die as a result is very real. And who will take responsibility?

The Dalgarno Institute calls on Anex to rethink their position on the uncontrolled supply of naloxone, but also calls on Governments to rethink the place of ROD in the treatment of opiate dependence and to provide funds to promote this treatment. The Dalgarno Institute believes that the best way to reduce harm is to help people become drug free in an effective and safe way."

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