



## OPIOIDS (Fentanyl, Etorphine, or others)

### I. Protocol Overview

Opioids are widely used for anesthesia and analgesia in chronic pain management and some effective are in treating breakthrough pain in cancer patients as well as illicit drug use.

Exposure to opioids typically occurs through ingestion but potentially can result from inhalation, if opioids are aerosolized. Clinical effects of opioid poisoning result from central nervous system and respiratory system depression manifesting as lethargy or coma, decreased respiratory rate, miosis, and possibly apnea. Euphoria, constipation, vomiting, and nausea, diarrhea, and restlessness can indicate lower concentration exposure. Naloxone (Narcan) administration may be considered.

For all suspected chemical exposures, consult the Poison Control Center (800-222-1222) located at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Information and treatment advice is available to the public and healthcare professionals at no charge.

Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) methods are used to detect opioids in urine and environmental samples. Samples are extracted and quantified via GC separation followed by isotopic dilution mass spectrometry analysis.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory does not perform this testing. Contact the CDC or the Poison Control Center.

### II. Contact Information

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

Poison Control Center: 215-386-2100

### III. CDC Website

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/opioids/casedef.asp>