

Opioid Overdose Case Definition

Exposure Description:

Overdoses attributable to opioids typically occur through ingestion or injection, but can also result from transdermal absorption or inhalation via aerosolization.

Clinical Description:

Clinical effects of opioid poisoning result from central nervous system and respiratory system depression manifesting as:

- Lethargy or coma,
- Decreased respiratory rate (bradypnea),
- Excessive constriction of the pupil of the eye (miosis), and
- Apnea

Laboratory Criteria:

Biologic: Positive urine, serum, other body fluid, or tissue toxicology screening for opioids or metabolites, fentanyl, fentanyl derivatives, and synthetic and semi-synthetic opioids.

OR

Environmental: Detection of opioids in environmental samples.

Case Classification:

Suspected case: A case in which a potentially exposed person is being evaluated by health-care workers or public health officials for chemical poisoning, but no specific substance has been identified.

Probable case: A clinically compatible case in which a high index of suspicion exists for opioid exposure or an epidemiologic link exists between this case and a confirmed case.

Confirmed case: A clinically compatible case in which laboratory tests have confirmed opioid exposure.