



Paramedic response to the opioid crisis: Education and training across the treatment and care continuum in out-of-hospital and community settings



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Preface

This is the first edition of CSA Z1650, *Paramedic response to the opioid crisis: Education and training across the treatment and care continuum in out-of-hospital and community settings*.

This Standard was developed with funding support by Health Canada under the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP). The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.

This Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Paramedic Response to Opioids under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Steering Committee on Health and Well-being, and has been formally approved by the Technical Committee.

This Standard has been developed in compliance with Standards Council of Canada requirements for National Standards of Canada. It has been published as a National Standard of Canada by CSA Group.

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 - b) *relevant clause, table and/or figure number;*
 - c) *wording of the proposed change; and*
 - d) *rationale for the change.*

CSA Z1650:21

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0 Introduction

0.1 General

This Standard provides a framework to guide paramedic service organizations in addressing health promotion, prevention, harm reduction, and treatment of opioid addiction, poisoning, and overdose in out-of-hospital and community settings. This Standard is intended for use by paramedic services organizations and community partners.

0.2 Overview

Canada continues to face a serious and growing trend with escalating numbers of opioid-related poisonings, overdoses, and deaths. The opioid crisis places strain on society, healthcare, and responders working to provide critical community and medical services. While many paramedic service organizations and jurisdictions are developing programs to address and respond to this crisis, there are no nationally or internationally accepted guidelines for the development of a paramedic response to address opioid use disorder, poisoning, overdose, addiction prevention, and treatment.

This Standard provides a comprehensive framework for paramedic response to the opioid crisis in out-of-hospital and community settings, which can be implemented by paramedic service organizations and other responders across Canada. The Standard fills a critical need for out-of-hospital care to help reduce emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to opioid poisoning and overdose. The uptake and dissemination of this Standard will facilitate the delivery of evidence-informed quality care, including poisoning and overdose prevention, and harm reduction treatment services dealing with substance use and addiction.

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1 Scope

1.1

This Standard provides a framework for the paramedic service organization's (PSO) response to the opioid crisis. The framework provides practical guidance on how to address opioid use in the out-of-hospital setting, including caring for patients during a poisoning or overdose, as well as tracking the crisis across paramedic service organizations. The Standard provides guidance regarding the full continuum of care including the prevention, treatment, and referral of patients experiencing problematic opioid use. To support paramedics in their out-of-hospital and community setting roles, the Standard addresses clinical practice, training and education, community engagement, and physical and psychosocial supports.

1.2

This Standard does not cover clinical opioid response and treatment procedures in an emergency room or hospital, nor does it cover emergency procedures for non-opioid poisoning and overdose.

1.3

In this Standard, "shall" is used to express a requirement, i.e., a provision that the user is obliged to satisfy in order to comply with the Standard; "should" is used to express a recommendation or that which is advised but not required; and "may" is used to express an option or that which is permissible within the limits of the Standard.

Notes accompanying clauses do not include requirements or alternative requirements; the purpose of a note accompanying a clause is to separate from the text explanatory or informative material.

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CAN/CSA-194.4-18

Respirator Protective Devices

Z1003.1-18

Psychological health and safety in the paramedic service organization

CAN/CSA-Z1630-17

Community paramedicine: Framework for program development