

# Patient Care

- Change your gloves frequently and practice good hand washing.
- Practice good infection control. It pays a safety dividend!
- **Do not transport samples or quantities of any street drugs.** Leave it for the police. It is potential evidence. The hospital does not need to see it.
- Consider wearing corrective lenses in lieu of your contact lenses at work. It eliminates issues if you need to doff and decon yourself.
- Never forget patients can have underlying medical history and disease. They might come up from the overdose differently, slowly or only after very high and repeat naloxone doses.
- Not all patients of overdose will rouse as they have co-morbidities or problems beyond the overdose. Treat what you see, trust your medical equipment and clinical judgements. Profound hypoxia, post arrest scenarios etc.
- Our experience has shown us never to rule out poly-pharmacy overdose and that all street drugs can be cut or contaminated with fentanyl or other opiates.
- Our experience has also shown us never forget that drug use can happen in clusters of use or at parties. Be prepared for the multiple patient 'party scenario'.
- Naloxone has a short half life. Plan your call and treatment accordingly.
- Trust your ABC's of patient care. They are your cornerstone safe dance steps!