

Episodic Overdose Prevention Services (e-OPS)

To prevent overdose deaths, episodic overdose prevention services (e-OPS) allow providers to observe substance use anywhere and anytime. E-OPS supports health and social service providers, including peer or experiential workers to observe substance use wherever overdoses may occur - not only at a fixed site with an address like an SCS or OPS.



How e-OPS works:

1. Ask a provider for episodic OPS services
2. They may discuss other things like drug checking with you
3. They must allow you to use your drugs in the most private and clean space nearby
4. They will watch you for signs of overdose and provide help if you do overdose

e-OPS is just starting to be offered in BC. You may hear about it by word of mouth. You can also ask your service provider. e-OPS may not be available until providers are trained.

To find a harm reduction site near you, visit www.towardtheheart.com

Who can offer e-OPS and where it can happen:

- Health and social service providers in BC
- All regulated and non-regulated providers (e.g. paramedics and experiential or peer support workers)
- Health and social service settings (e.g. bedside in hospital, supportive housing sites, shelters)
- Smoking e-OPS is allowed in open or well-ventilated spaces

e-OPS values:

- Promote dignity and respect
- Reduce stigma related to substance use
- Provide better care for people who use substances
- Help people engage with services
- Reduce stress and risks for staff
- Improve relationships between providers and people who use substances

For Providers

Under the provincial overdose-related public health emergency, e-OPS can be provided by anyone, in any setting as authorized and directed by [Ministerial Order M488](#)

Find procedures and more information on the [BCCDC website](#)²



For more information:

- [Ministry of Health e-OPS Provincial Protocol](#)²
- [Resources for People Who Use Substances](#)⁴
- [Toward the Heart: COVID-19 Resources](#)³
- [Toward the Heart: Safer Tablet Injection](#)⁵

1. https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/mo/hmo/m0488_2016

2. http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/COVID19_EpisodicOPSPProtocolGuidelines.pdf

3. <https://towardtheheart.com/covid-19-resources>

4. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/priority-populations/people-who-use-substances>

5. <https://towardtheheart.com/resource/safer-tablet-injection/open>

6. <https://towardtheheart.com/site-finder>