

*Last updated: May 8, 2024*

## **BC overdose prevention technology funding initiative**

### **What if a resident refuses to have a device installed in their unit?**

The suppliers will provide resident engagement resources to housing societies that receive funding. It is not mandatory that devices are installed in all units/spaces. If some devices ordered are not installed, please contact [odtechfund@bcnpha.ca](mailto:odtechfund@bcnpha.ca).

Once devices are installed in units, it is the choice of residents whether to use the devices or not. As units turnover, new residents will need to be informed about the devices and how to use them through the housing societies policies and protocols. Sensors installed in restrooms will impact all residents accessing those spaces and it may be necessary for housing societies to update policies and protocols.

### **What will be required of staff at my organization to operate and respond to the devices?**

The overdose prevention devices installed through this initiative should supplement, not replace, the existing overdose prevention and response strategies and protocols housing societies that receive funding have in place for residents. When an alarm is received through the devices by staff, the housing society's regular overdose response strategies and protocols should be put into action. As such, no additional training beyond what is provided by the device suppliers will be required for staff to respond to alarms. It is expected that the training already required by housing societies and its funders will be sufficient for staff to respond to overdoses among residents in the buildings where the devices are installed.

Housing societies that receive funding will also be responsible for submitting data to BCNPHA for evaluation of the initiative, as per agreements with BCNPHA.

### **What if staff do not have tablets/smartphones to operate the devices' software and monitor for alarms?**

Housing societies that receive funding will be responsible for ensuring on-duty frontline staff have access to working tablets and/or smartphones to monitor for alarms and fully use the software that accompanies the devices. Costs associated with the purchase or maintenance of tablets and/or smartphones for staff will not be covered through this funding initiative.

LifeguardLite™ central emergency control panels do not require wi-fi and all data charges are included with the package.

### **Will using the app incur additional cellular costs for my organization?**

Possibly, yes. These costs will be the responsibility of the housing societies to cover. This funding initiative will not cover the costs associated with tablets/smartphones required to operate the devices' software.

LifeguardLite™ central emergency control panels do not require wi-fi and all data charges are included with the package.

**How does my organization communicate feedback about the devices back to the suppliers?**

Feedback about devices should be directed to the supplier housing societies chose to work with. The suppliers have support lines that housing societies can call for assistance with the devices or their software. All troubleshooting and concerns about the devices or their software should be directed to the supplier housing societies are working with to resolve.

The BCNPHA evaluation forms for this funding initiative will also include space to provide feedback about the devices and the software, which will be aggregated across all sites that received funding through this initiative and shared with the suppliers and BC Housing.

**What happens when the three year package ends?**

Housing societies that receive funding will be responsible to cover the costs of service packages in order to continue using the devices beyond the three year period covered through this funding initiative. Service package costs may be different at the end of the three year period.