

Save a Life with Naloxone: The Reversal Agent for Opioids

- Your Gateway Pharmacist can dispense naloxone to you with no prescription required. Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is a safe and effective medication to reverse the overdose of opioids. If you or a loved one has been prescribed an opioid, or if you know someone at risk, you should have naloxone. Remember, an overdose can occur **even with proper use**.



About Naloxone

- Naloxone knocks opioids off the receptors in the brain for about 30 minutes. This reverses the overdose and allows the person to breathe, providing enough time for emergency personnel to arrive.
- Naloxone has no effect if a person does not have opioids in their body.
- Naloxone only works with opioids. Examples of opioids are oxycodone (Oxycontin), hydrocodone (Norco), morphine (MS Contin), fentanyl (Duragesic), methadone, codeine, or heroin.
- Naloxone is safe and has little to no side effects.
- Naloxone is not addictive and has no potential for abuse, and is not a controlled substance.

Who is at Risk for an Opioid Overdose?

- Anyone taking an opioid has a potential risk of overdose.
- People taking high doses of opioids, and who take opioids for a long period of time.
- An overdose can occur even with proper use. Opioids can slow or stop breathing. This can occur anytime and may be caused by respiratory infections, asthma, COPD, sleep apnea, etc., and other times your body just might not be able to handle the same dose usually taken.
- People taking other substances with opioids, such as anti-anxiety medications, sleep aids, or alcohol.
- People who have stopped taking opioids for a period of time.

How to give naloxone:

There are 4 common naloxone products. Follow the instructions for the type you have.

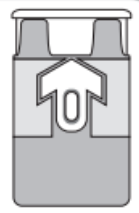
Nasal spray

This nasal spray needs no assembly and can be sprayed up one nostril by pushing the plunger.



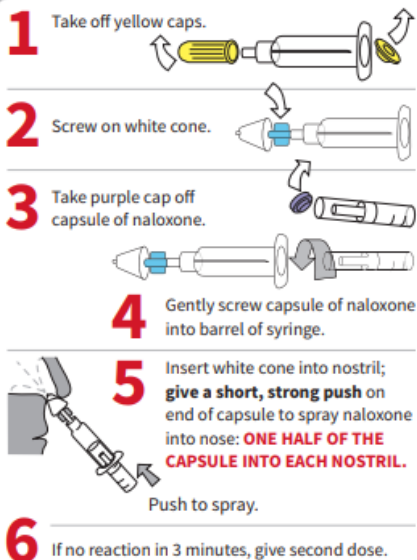
Auto-injector

The naloxone auto-injector needs no assembly and can be injected into the outer thigh, even through clothing. It contains a speaker that provides step-by-step instructions.



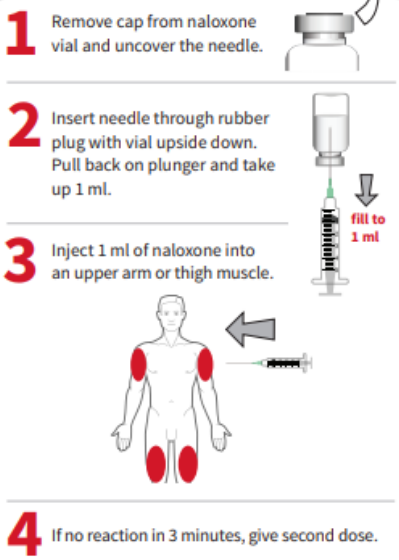
Nasal spray with assembly

This requires assembly. Follow the instructions below.



Injectable naloxone

This requires assembly. Follow the instructions below.



How to Respond to an Overdose Using Naloxone and Save a Life

Step 1: Identify the overdose.

Opioids suppress the body's urge to breathe. If someone is not breathing or is struggling to breathe, try calling the person's name and rubbing your knuckles on his or her chest. If there's still no response, he or she could be experiencing an overdose.

Other signs of overdose are blue or pale skin color, small pupils, low blood pressure, slow heartbeat, slow or shallow breathing, snoring sound, and gasping for breath.

Step 2: Call 9-1-1

After identifying an overdose, call 9-1-1 for help. Make sure to say the person is unresponsive and not breathing or struggling to breathe. Give a clear address and location.

Step 3: Administer naloxone

Store naloxone in an easy to reach place. Make sure friends and family know where and how to use. If there is no response to stimulation administer naloxone. Follow the instructions for naloxone on the label. If the person is still unresponsive in 2 to 3 minutes, you can give a second dose of naloxone. Continue breaths until emergency help arrives.

Step 4: Give rescue breathing

Giving oxygen can save someone experiencing an overdose. If trained, perform basic CPR:

- Make sure nothing is in the person's mouth that may be blocking breathing.
- Place one hand on the person's chin and tilt head back. Pinch their nose closed with the other hand.
- Administer 2 slow breaths and look for the person's chest to rise.
- Continue rescue breathing, 1 breath every 5 seconds, until the person starts breathing on their own.

Brochure (attach to website)